Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-069
Wednesday
10 April 1991

Daily Report
Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-069 *10 April 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Bogachev: Maintaining NATO Now Unacceptable *[TASS]* 1
Woerner on Sensitivity to Soviet Interests *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 1
Viktor Karpov Examines Conversion Problems *[Moscow International]* 1
Radio Views Soviet Navy Divisions Issue *[Moscow International]* 2
International CW Conference Opens in Moscow *[TASS]* 2

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

Spokesman Ignatenko Gives 9 Apr News Briefing 3
Gorbachev To Meet ROK Leader *[TASS]* 3
Change in Spokesmen Denied *[TASS]* 3
Sympathy Expressed for Iraqi Kurds *[TASS]* 3
Questioned on Domestic Issues *[TASS]* 3
Gulf War Impacts on European Doctrine *[PRAVDA 6 Apr]* 4
Soviets To Participate in UN Peace Force *[Moscow International]* 5

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United States & Canada

Commentary Assails Powell El Salvador Remarks *[TASS]* 7
New Ambassador To United States Appointed *[TASS]* 7

China

Eastern Border Draft Treaty Talks Completed *[IZVESTIYA 10 Apr]* 7

Northeast Asia

Japanese Envoy on Upcoming Gorbachev Visit *[MOSCOW NEWS No 12]* 7
Japan's Kaifu Cited on Upcoming Gorbachev Visit *[TASS]* 8
Loginov on Economic Ties With Japan *[Moscow International]* 8
Rogachev Meets South Korean Envoy in Moscow *[TASS]* 10
Report Says Kim Chong-il Seeking PRC Backing *[IZVESTIYA 6 Apr]* 10

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Le Quang Dao Interviewed on Joint Cooperation *[Moscow International]* 10

Near East & South Asia

Nabil 'Amr on PLO's 'Qualitatively New Era' *[TASS]* 11
Envoy's Further Comments *[Moscow Radio]* 11
Proposals for Mideast Conference Viewed *[Moscow International]* 12
Belonogov Ends Morocco Visit 9 Apr *[TASS]* 12
Commentary on World Reaction to Kurds' Plight *[Moscow International]* 12
Afro-Asian Committee Issues Statement on Kurds *[TASS]* 13

Sub-Saharan Africa

South African Ties Upgraded Via Interest Sections *[MOSCOW NEWS No 12]* 13

East Europe

Bessmertnykh, Loncar Hold News Conference *[TASS]* 14
Bessmertnykh on SFRY Unity *[TASS]* 14
Poll Official Comments on Albanian Violence *[PRAVDA 4 Apr]* 15
Albanian Democrats Criticized *[PRAVDA 6 Apr]* 15
FRG Paper's Article on Polish Talks Slanderous *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Apr]* 16
Bessmertnykh-Hungary's Somogyi Meeting Noted *[IZVESTIYA 5 Apr]* 16

West Europe

Yazov Denies Violating Conventional Arms Treaty *[TASS]* 17
Yakovlev Visits UK, Honored by University *[TASS]* 17

Latin America & Caribbean

Politburo's Shenin Receives Cuban Envoy *[PRAVDA 6 Apr]* 17
TASS on Cuba's Renewed Rejection of Captalism 17

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Proceedings 9 Apr Reported *[Moscow TV]* 19
Legislature Approves Appointments *[TASS]* 19
Aid Given to Chernobyl Victims *[TASS]* 19
Privatization Bill Debated at 5 Apr Session *[IZVESTIYA 8 Apr]* 20
Resolution on Agricultural Tasks Published *[PRAVDA 6 Apr]* 21
Political Battles in Committees Deplored *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 6 Apr]* 24

Political & Social

Gorbachev Unveils 'Anti-Crisis' Measures *[PRAVDA 10 Apr]* 25
Ignatenko Briefs Press on Measures *[TASS]* 27
Kirghiz Leader on Meeting *[Moscow TV]* 28
Aide Denies Gorbachev To Resign as Party Leader *[TASS]* 28
Plan To Oust Gorbachev Rumored *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 10 Apr]* 29
Soyuz Call for Extraordinary Congress Viewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 10 Apr]* 29
Soyuz Group 'Displeased' With Gorbachev Talks *[Radio Rossii]* 30
TASS Reviews Soviet Central Press for 10 Apr 30
New Gorbachev Adviser Interviewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 10 Apr]* 30
Shevardnadze: Dictatorship Warning 'Well Founded'
[Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA 6-7 Apr] 31
Gorbachev, Yeltsin Share 'Common Destiny' *[MOSCOW NEWS No 12]* 33
Gorbachev Appoints Three New Ministers *[PRAVDA 10 Apr]* 34
'Vzglyad' Program Operating 'Underground' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 9 Apr]* 34
TV Said 'To Revive' Broadcasts *[ZNAMYA YUNOSTI 27 Mar]* 34
'Outspoken' Television Newscasters Suspended *[MOSCOW NEWS No 12]* 35
'Political Censorship' Imposed on Army Paper *[MOSCOW NEWS No 12]* 35
Committee Head Views Power of Soviets *[MOSCOW NEWS No 12]* 36
Defense Panel Aide on Draft KGB Legislation *[IAN PRESS RELEASE]* 36
Panel's Finding on Joint Patrols Reported *[IZVESTIYA 5 Apr]* 38
Committees Urges Reinstating Education Chief *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 4 Apr]* 38
Debate on Yagodin Continues *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 6 Apr]* 39
Justice Minister Views Latest Crime Statistics *[IZVESTIYA 8 Apr]* 39

Economic

47 Kuzbass Mines Closed, Bus Drivers Strike *[TASS]* 40
Kuzbass Strike Committees Warned of 'Famine' *[IZVESTIYA 10 Apr]* 40
Strikes Continue in Vorkuta, Donetsk *[TASS]* 41
New Collectives Join Donbass Strikes *[IZVESTIYA 10 Apr]* 41
One Mine At Work in Pechora Coalfield *[Moscow Radio]* 41
All 'Intaugol' Coal Mines Reported Working *[Moscow Radio]* 42
Strike 'Only Suspended' *[Radio Rossii]* 42
Strike Threatens Coking, Steel Plant Closures *[Moscow Radio]* 42
Metallurgy Situation May Be 'Catastrophic' *[TASS]* 42
Kazakh Mine Strikes Not Ruled Illegal *[IZVESTIYA 10 Apr]* 42
Commentator Views Results of Miners' Talks *[TASS]* 43
Prices for Sour-Milk Products Lowered *[Moscow Radio]* 43
Bank Bases Revaluing Savings on March Decree *[PRAVDA 6 Apr]* 44
Base Industry Pay Agreements To Be Negotiated *[PRAVDA 8 Apr]* 44
Defense Industry Conversion Poses Problems *[Moscow International]* 45

Agricultural

Gorbachev Meets Market Farm Leaders *[Moscow Radio]* 45
Agricultural Developments for 28 Mar-3 Apr *[Moscow Radio]* 45

Military

Military-Political Section Amends Shlyaga Report *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 9 Apr]* 46
MVD Defends Troops' Role in South Ossetia *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 4 Apr]* 46
Civilian Defense Industries' Output To Double *[Moscow TV]* 46
Nonstaff Officer Reserve Subunits Created *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 Apr]* 46
Arkhipov on Military Assistance to Agriculture *[TASS]* 47
Correction to Navy Faces Budget, Conversion 47

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Baltic Republics

Baltic Leaders Issue Communique on Solidarity *[Tallinn Radio]* 48
Baltic, Russian Deputy Foreign Ministers in Riga *[EKHO LITVY 22 Mar]* 48
Estonian CPSU Leader Annus Interviewed *[PRAVDA 27 Mar]* 48
Swedish Party Leader on Talks With Savisaar *[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 3 Apr]* 51
U.S. Senators Satisfied With Visit to Latvia *[Riga Radio]* 51
Latvia's Rubiks Calls for Preserving USSR *[TASS]* 52
Latvia, Russia Sign Industrial Agreement *[Riga Radio]* 52
Further on Union Vilnius School 'Seizure' 52
Under DOSAAF 'Protection' *[TASS]* 52
Landsbergis Comments; 'Firm Protest' *[Radio Vilnius]* 52
Lithuanian Sajudis To Lead Picket at CPSU *[Radio Vilnius]* 53
More on Pugo, Lithuania's Vaisvila Meeting *[EKHO LITVY 20 Mar]* 53
Further on Vagnorius 20 Mar News Conference *[EKHO LITVY 22 Mar]* 53
European Legislators Discuss Aid to Lithuania *[EKHO LITVY 23 Mar]* 54

RSFSR

Foreign Minister Kozyrev on China, Japan Talks *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 6 Apr]* 54
Moscow Unions Chief Supports Striking Miners *[TASS]* 55
Further on Extraordinary Third RSFSR Congress 56
Anticrisis Resolution Published *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 9 Apr]* 56
PRAVDA Views Congress *[9 Apr]* 58
IZVESTIYA Writer's Analysis *[9 Apr]* 60
New 'Communists for Democracy' Party Examined *[TASS]* 62
New Political Parties' Registration Reported *[MOSCOW NEWS No 12]* 62

MOSCOW NEWS on Democrats' 9 Mar Speeches *[No 11]* 63
Trubin Argues for Proceedings Against Deputy *[PRAVDA 4 Apr]* 64

Western Republics

Rallies, Strikes Against Price Hikes in Minsk 65
Rally Delegates Meet Officials *[Moscow Radio]* 65
TASS, RIA Reports Contrasted *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 Apr]* 65
IZVESTIYA on 9 Apr Strikes *[10 Apr]* 66
Government Appeals for Discipline *[Minsk Radio]* 66
Strikers Allowed TV Airtime *[TASS]* 67
Gorbachev Resignation Urged *[AFP]* 67
Measures To Lessen Increases *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 68
Belorussia's Dementey Backs Gorbachev Measures *[Moscow TV]* 68
NOVOSTI Cited on Moldovan CP Split *[Moscow TV]* 69
Moldovan Communist Party Drafts New Program *[TASS]* 69
Crimean Oblast Elects New First Secretary *[Moscow Radio]* 69
Ukrainian Official: Famine Possible 'This Year' *[Kiev International]* 69
Kiev Communists See 'Short-Sighted' Center Policy *[TASS]* 69
Chernobyl Radioactive Burial To Be Relocated *[TASS]* 70
Measures To Eliminate Chernobyl Consequences *[TASS]* 70

Caucasus

Further on Georgian Independence Declaration 71
President Hails Action *[Moscow TV]* 71
Addresses Gorbachev on Sovereignty *[Tbilisi Radio]* 71
Asks for International Support *[Tbilisi Radio]* 71
Preserves Abkhaz Autonomy *[Moscow Radio]* 72
South Ossetia Remains 'Extremely Tense' *[Moscow TV]* 72
Joint RSFSR-Georgian Protocol Signed *[VESTNIK GRUZII 26 Mar]* 72
Mutalibov Urges Nagorno-Karabakh Reconciliation *[TASS]* 73
Azerbaijan Halts Train Movement Into Armenia *[Yerevan Radio]* 73
Armenia Appeals to Center on Border Tension *[Yerevan Radio]* 73
Armenian Government on 'Provocative Acts' *[Yerevan Radio]* 73
Armenian Cabinet Views Referendum, Other Issues *[ARMENPRES]* 74

Central Asia

Turkmen Approve Draft Union Treaty *[IZVESTIYA 6 Apr]* 74

Bogachev: Maintaining NATO Now Unacceptable

LD0904221191 Moscow TASS in English 2154 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS military analyst Vladimir Bogachev]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—U.S. Senator Clairborne Pell, who heads the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, has spoken in favour of preserving the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation even after the abrupt reduction of international tension in Europe because NATO, he said, is a guarantor in case something unforseen happens.

Pell was speaking at a conference in Amsterdam devoted to political and economic problems in Europe. He said that it would be risky to dismantle the security mechanism which had maintained peace for forty years. His message is that the preservation of the North Atlantic military organisation will not exercise a negative influence on the situation in Europe, while its dismantling is fraught with distabilising consequences.

Pell's conclusions cannot be accepted for a number of reasons. First of all, the abolition of the Warsaw Pact has changed the balance of forces between NATO and the Soviet Union in Europe. The Soviet Union will now have to rely on its own forces to ensure security. The levels of armed forces established under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, were based on the existence of two military alliances. The preservation of one of them, the Western military alliance, will certainly destroy the earlier-existing equilibrium and hence stability.

After NATO and the Soviet Union make cuts in their land forces in keeping with the treaty, their elation [as received] will be about 1 - 1.5 in favour of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Moreover, Soviet troops are now leaving East European countries. The withdrawal is expected to complete by 1994, leaving no buffer zone between NATO and the Soviet Union. The politicisation of the Western military alliance announced by the NATO leadership has yet to be seen.

There is no doubt at all that the level of conventional arms established under the CFE treaty and the Soviet Union's nuclear shield are fully capable of protecting the Soviet Union under any conditions. However, NATO plans to switch to the arms race in the field of latest high technologies do little to strengthen confidence and trust among European countries. The appearance of ever new arms systems calls for continuous comparison of the forces on both sides both as concerns their numbers and their efficiency. The continuation of the arms race may cause further complications in carrying out the provisions of the CFE treaty and even disrupt the arms control process.

It is clear that the transformation of the North Atlantic military alliance into a truly political organisation, as envisaged in the London declaration, is the necessary next step on the road towards the normalization of the military-political situation in Europe. In any circumstances, further arms reduction in Europe must proceed on an equal footing, taking into account the liquidation of the Warsaw Pact and not infringing on the interests of the Soviet Union.

Woerner on Sensitivity to Soviet Interests

PM1004101991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report from IZVESTIYA, TASS, REUTER, UPI, BALTFAX, SIBINFORM roundup: "M. Woerner On NATO-USSR Relations"]

[Text] In a Hungarian television interview NATO Secretary General M. Woerner said that in the current situation the North Atlantic alliance is not seeking to change the existing correlation of forces in the world to the detriment of the USSR's interests. "We are seeking harmonious relations with this state, since this meets our interests." NATO does not intend to exclude the Soviet Union from the structure of the new European security system, he stressed. If NATO were to take it into its head to "move its borders up to the borders of the USSR, such a step would make an unfavorable impression," Woerner said. For that very reason the alliance is not seeking to admit as members states that were participants of the Warsaw Pacty military organization or even to establish associate membership for them.

Viktor Karpov Examines Conversion Problems

LD0904160191 Moscow World Service in English 2300 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Conversion of part of a vast military industrial complex to civilian use is one of the major economic problems in this country. Soviet citizens have so far seen no tangible results of conversion. Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov explains in the Soviet journal BUSINESSMAN:

The process of conversion in the USSR is aggravated by many factors. One of these is that up till now it has not been clear to what extent the economy has been militarized. This country has long criticised the U.S. military industrial complex amounting to 20 percent and more of the American economy. Yet there have been no official statistics of this score in the USSR. However, in Karpov's view defense industry in the USSR may account for two times more of that in the United States.

Viktor Karpov believes it's now impossible to foresee the results of disarmament in terms of profitability. Economic militarization by plan and command has led to the distortion of prices, expenditures, and production efficiency. The prices of Soviet military hardware have been classified as well as its production costs. Nonetheless, most analysts in the USSR believe that conversion is feasible. Its implementation requires not only the

government's political will and participation in its organization; it's also necessary to take the munitions plants subject to conversion out of state control and involve them in market relations.

Viktor Karpov feels conversion will be highly lucrative since hi-tech facilities and skilled workforce will be applied for civilian production. In Karpov's view, conversion in the USSR has in fact a wider scope as compared with the USA. It's common knowledge that in the Soviet Union there is a dire shortage of consumer goods, whereas in the United States the commodities market is full. The USSR, just as the USA, will have to (?retrain) the discharged labor force and provide social safeguards. Viktor Karpov says peace dividends depend on how quickly and successfully the problems will be solved.

That was the view of the Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov in the Soviet magazine Businessman.

Radio Views Soviet Navy Divisions Issue

LD0904160691 Moscow World Service in English 2300 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Vladislav Kozyakov report]

[Text] The interpretation of an article in the Paris treaty on the conventional weapons in Europe has put Soviet-U.S. relations to yet another test. Vladislav Kozyakov has contributed this report:

The United States insists three coastguard divisions of the Soviet Navy be subject to the provisions of the Paris document and treated as redundant. The fate of the three divisions deployed on the Baltic and on the Black Sea coast could be decided in separate negotiations on the fate of warships, marine, and coastguard units but unfortunately the United States has so far been reluctant to (?meet) the Soviet initiative and hold separate (?naval) negotiations.

Apart from that the Paris treaty was signed last November the three divisions entered the Soviet Navy back in 1989 when the treaty was still in the making (?and) Washington remembered to raise the issue when it was time to ratify it [sentence as heard]. Ratification has stumbled on the difference in interpretation. The coming into force of the Paris treaty, resumption of the Paris talks in Vienna with a view to cut more conventional forces in Europe, conclusion of a treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons and finally a new Soviet-American summit have all found themselves hostage to the solution of that problem. Moscow (?is) working hard to find a compromise. (?It) is ready to cut the [words indistinct] by half.

The Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov has said a mutually acceptable formula must be found. He added that the Soviet Union is waiting for (?a rational) response to its proposals. The United States' European allies are reported to question the wisdom of the all or nothing (?plan). THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent in Paris has reported some European governments are trying to [word indistinct] a way out [word indistinct] they assume the treaty's ratification takes precedence over the [word indistinct] issue. Czechoslovakia's parliament has already ratified the Paris treaty and Czechoslovakia's Foreign Minister Dienstbier has said it will help substantially reduce the conventional forces in Europe.

International CW Conference Opens in Moscow

LD0904104191 Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 9 (TASS)—A three-day international conference on chemical arms opens in Moscow today.

The meeting, organised by the Commission on International Security and Disarmament of the Soviet Peace Committee, is attended by Soviet Foreign and Defence Ministries experts, lawmakers, prominent Soviet scholars and specialists from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The conference will discuss prospects for an international convention banning chemical arms, the role of the public and lawmakers in expediting its signing, problems of eliminating chemical arms and environmental safety during the destruction of chemical weapons.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov is expected to speak at the opening ceremony.

Other speakers include Matthew Medelson, U.S. Government delegation consultant at chemical arms talks, Nikita Smirmvich, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Department on Arms Limitation and Disarmament, and Martin Kaplan, former secretary-general of the International Pugwash Movement.

Spokesman Ignatenko Gives 9 Apr News Briefing

Gorbachev To Meet ROK Leader

LD0904142391 Moscow TASS in English 1338 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Aleksandr Kanishchev, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev will meet his South Korean counterpart No Tae-u on April 19 after completing an official visit to Japan, his press secretary Vitaliy Ignatenko told a briefing here today.

Under the bilateral understanding, they will meet during Gorbachev's stop-over on the island of Cheju-do on his way home from Japan, Ignatenko said.

He added that the meeting on the island had been requested by the South Koreans.

The press secretary also said that Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev received today the South Korean ambassador to Moscow, who handed him No Tae-u's personal message to Gorbachev.

According to Ignatenko, the South Korean president's message welcomes the forthcoming summit with Gorbachev and expresses confidence that it will be another landmark in developing bilateral relations and ensuring peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Change in Spokesmen Denied

LD0904143691 Moscow TASS in English 1404 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Aleksandr Kanishchev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Presidential Press Secretary Vitaliy Ignatenko today denied a news agency report that his duties are being taken over by another man.

Asked by TASS at a briefing about the INTERFAX news agency report that Valentin Karasyov has been appointed President Mikhail Gorbachev's liaison with the press, Ignatenko read out a later INTERFAX report admitting its mistake.

Contacted by TASS, Presidential Press Service officials said that the liaison with both Soviet and foreign news organisations remains Ignatenko's responsibility.

Ignatenko explained at the briefing that Karasyov was appointed the president's liaison with government and non-government organisations.

He said that Karasyov, a sociologist by training, is now a member of parliament. Born in 1952, his previous job was in the city of Kramatorsk, in the Ukraine's Donbass coal-mining area.

Sympathy Expressed for Iraqi Kurds

LD0904163191 Moscow TASS in English 1544 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Aleksander Kanishchev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—The Soviet Union believes that "the point at issue today is a genuine human tragedy, the fate of nearly two million Kurds who are homeless and subjected to intolerable humiliation", presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko told a briefing here today, when asked about Soviet reaction to the Kurdish refugee problem in Iraq.

At the same time, he said "we cannot control what is currently taking place inside Iraq. Neither can we sit in judgement on what government must rule the country."

"It is impossible for us to become involved in any national or civil war in Iraq," Ignatenko stressed.

He also commented on a proposal to create a buffer zone in northern Iraq, made in Luxembourg on Monday by an extraordinary meeting of EC heads of state and government. Ignatenko said that the Soviet side, aware of the seriousness of the matter, had yet to work out its attitude towards the initiative.

He also recalled that the Kurdish problem indirectly affected the Soviet Union, which has a 150,000-strong Kurdish population, of which nearly 100,000 live in Caucasia and the rest in Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

"We can only express universal human solidarity, as it was done recently when representatives of Kurdish public visited the Communist Party Central Committee and the USSR Foreign Ministry and expressed their views on what has been taking place in Iraq in the past few days," Ignatenko continued.

Representatives of Kurds appealed to the Soviet leadership to make a political statement in support of Iraqi Kurds.

"However, no one asked us for political asylum or permanent residence," Ignatenko concluded.

Questioned on Domestic Issues

LD1004101391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Aleksandr Kanishchev, and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 9 Apr (TASS)—[passage omitted] Moving on to answer questions from journalists, the USSR president's aide noted that Mikhail Gorbachev expresses great concern at the situtation with regard to miners' strikes in the country. According to Vitaliy Ignatenko, the president's anxiety arises from the fact

that these strikes are doing great damage to the Soviet national economy and that the situation is such that the country has virtually no reserves to ensure the normal functioning of basic production sites connected with mining regions.

Speaking of Mikhail Gorbachev's reaction to Georgia's declaration of state independence, Vitaliy Ignatenko expressed the view that the president's reaction "will be in accordance" with articles of the current USSR Constitution defining the right to leave the Union. Today's session of the Federation Council has not yet discussed Georgia's declaration of independence, he added.

Vitaliy Ignatenko confirmed that Mikhail Gorbachev had a meeting yesterday with the "Soyuz" group at the all-Union parliament. The president's aide called this meeting a "major detailed conversation" during which issues concerning the union treaty, the economy, social conditions, and urgent measures to stabilize the situation in the country were touched upon. He said the question of convening an extraordinary congress of USSR people's deputies was not raised at the meeting.

Journalists again wanted to know whether the Soviet-U.S. summit planned for this year in Moscow will take place. Vitaliy Ignatenko expressed the hope that this meeting will take place in Moscow in the first half of this year as planned.

Gulf War Impacts on European Doctrine

PM1004083791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 91 Second Edition p 6

["View from Paris" by Vladimir Bolshakov: "The Patriot Surprise"]

[Text] Our international correspondents generally do not argue in public with their domestic colleagues, that is, the writers of articles on strictly domestic subject matter. Cleaving to this rule, I will not cite any names here. Especially since it is a question of not one but a whole series of articles in our "democratic" press protesting in unison about the steps taken by the USSR Government to strengthen legality and order and our country's defense capability and above all to rescue our defense industry from the chaos engulfing all other sectors of the Soviet economy.

I think that writers of such articles are at the least guilty of political naivete in favoring out-and-out conversion and even the speediest "privatization of the military-industrial complex." I also hope that it is not a question of their carrying out a "social order," and for that reason I am not casting doubt on these writers' desire for peace and the people's prosperity. I entirely share their dream that swords will be beaten into plowshares in the very near future. In contemporary parlance this means switching the tank production lines to tractor and combine production and missile plants to producing televisions, refrigerators, and microwave ovens. The whole question is only: To what extent is this dream timely?

Two years before the Gulf war broke out and before the announcement came that the Warsaw Pact military organization was to disband, I conducted an interview with France's then Defense Minister J.-P. Chevenement and asked him what was a topical question for us at that time regarding France's experience in the field of conversion. The minister raised his eyebrows in surprise and replied quite firmly that the country's defense industry had not yet reached that point. When I and my other colleagues in Europe and the United States asked high-ranking politicians and generals whether they finally intended to follow our example and abandon NATO, we always received the extremely determined answer: "No!"

Indisputably, this did not mean that the West was abandoning its talks with the USSR on mutual arms limitation. But, I repeat, these were talks about limitation and not about giving up these weapons. Both in statements at open international forums and in private behind-the-scenes conversations, Western leaders expressed no desire to abandon the long-scheduled work to modernize all components of their nuclear missile and conventional arsenals, despite the fact that well-known Soviet foreign-policy "Cupids" aimed darts straight at their hearts.

An example of this was the appearance of the Patriot ABM defense system—the first child of R. Reagan's "Star Wars," which our press has long since forgotten—in the conflict zone around Kuwait, that came as a surprise to everyone. People in our country had already declared that these "Star Wars" seemed to have receded into history together with Reagan himself...

The Patriot surprise was not the only lesson learned from the Gulf war. Obvious U.S. technological superiority not only over Iraq, which actually had our—not very modern—combat hardware in its arsenal, provoked virtually a panic reaction in European NATO countries. "We are hopelessly behind!" LE FIGARO declared, for instance, starting off the military experts' debates on the lessons to be learned from the Gulf crisis.

In a recent series of articles Pierre Lellouche, a LE FIGARO writer and well-known arms specialist, called for an immediate end to the planned cut in France's military budget and, on the contrary, a sharp increase in defense appropriations. Even journalists from the liberal LE MONDE, both during and after the Gulf fighting, "yearned" for the U.S. standard of technology, something that is still out of reach for the French and other European armed forces.

West Europe drew another lesson for itself from the war with Iraq. A. Peyrefitte, the extremely influential French conservatives' ideologue, reckons that the U.S. blitzkrieg in the Gulf—no one harbors any illusions of an "allied" victory—indicates that there is one superpower left in

the world—the United States—and it is this superpower that intends, albeit under the UN flag, to establish a new world order which will be no more nor less than a "Pax Americana," that is, a "world order U.S.-style."

You may dispute this viewpoint—something done by both the press and French political circles. Left-wingers are more inclined now to speak of a "new equilibrium" between the superpowers and the UN Security Council moving into the role, if not of world government, then of interstate center for the prevention of aggression. At the same time left-wingers also share the general anxiety over the "minuses" of the world situation that has taken shape.

In a recent interview with LE MONDE French Foreign Minister R. Dumas said bluntly: The Gulf War showed that the European community has extremely limited opportunities to influence regional conflicts that arise owing to a universal rearmament process, and that directly affect the interests of all Europe's states. In his opinion, the war made Europeans think again about how they want to see Europe and what they want to make of it. The war provided a different view of the prospects for setting up a political, economic, and currency union in Western Europe in line with the Treaty of Rome.

People here are now speaking of the need to discuss at "Common Market" government level the Franco-German idea of unified European foreign policy and defense policy. There is a new perception of NATO and the WEU under these conditions. It is not impossible that within the framework of a united Europe the WEU will in fact implement the common defense policy which was hitherto the prerogative of a U.S.-dominated NATO.

During the recent Franco-U.S. summit meeting in the Antilles President F. Mitterrand sounded out America's reaction to this. Newspaper comment indicates that President G. Bush was not delighted by the idea. Washington suggested a different option—preserving the alliance formed under U.S. auspices during the Gulf war, which the Pentagon clearly does not want to abandon. In the opinion of LE MONDE, the United States needs this kind of international "fire brigade" politically rather than militarily to interfere in other countries' affairs. F. Mitterrand immediately saw this as a danger to independent French policy and politely but decisively rejected this kind of cooperation.

Like the United States' other European allies, France cannot help being concerned at Washington's Messianism, which is once again in fine form. The Americans' dogged desire to "bring the war to its logical conclusion" and overthrow Iraq's Saddam Husayn allows a definite policy to be shaped. Whereas the backing of the Contras in Nicaragua and the invasions of Grenada and Panama were not yet considered as extending the "Pax Americana" doctrine throughout the world, a living symbol of this doctrine—General Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. invasion forces both in Panama and in the Arabian desert—emerged after the Gulf war to export it to the rest of the world. Moreover, TIME magazine recently reported artlessly that the United States is in no hurry to leave the Gulf, since Operation "Steppe Storm" may be necessary after Operation "Desert Storm," that is, a show of U.S. military force aimed at influencing the development of events in the Soviet Union.

While not saying this outright, many European leaders are afraid that the transatlantic superpower's dominant role may increase sharply following its military triumph in the Gulf zone and may result in all Europe's ending up a U.S. vassal. They now see not only European integration, but also the creation of a European confederation involving all the continent's states, including the Soviet Union, as a guarantee against this kind of subordination.

Western Europe now has a vital interest in continuing dialogue with the Soviet Union on all common European problems, including conventional arms cuts, human rights, economic integration, and so forth, and has no desire at all to break off this dialogue on the pretexts put forward on the Western ideas market by some of our "democratic peddlers" who are showing up there.

Soviets To Participate in UN Peace Force

LD0904151891 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] An understanding to include Soviet servicemen to the group of the United Nations international peacekeeping force has been reached at the consultations among the five permanent members of the Security Council, that is, Britain, China, the Soviet Union, the United States, and France. Only 20 officers will be sent, but even such a symbolic Soviet participation, what with so-called special relations between Moscow and Baghdad, will attach the UN mission an extra authority. This, as it has been reported from the United Nations headquarters in New York, was specially pointed out by the Kuwaiti delegation.

The main forces will be deployed along the 200 km long Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. Their task is to prevent the violation of the border and to observe any hostile or potentially hostile actions of one state in relation to the other. The UN observers are authorized to use force only as a self-defense measure.

The United Nations has yet another task which is to effect control over the destruction of stocks of the Iraqi chemical and biological weapons, as well as of their ballistic missiles with a range of over 150 km. And at least two main problems are to be resolved here, namely who will pay for the destruction of armaments, and where the destruction will be carried out.

I think a solution will be found. So far it is important that the international force of the United Nations, which

includes 1,740 servicmen from different countries, will be sent as soon as possible to the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait. Only then will the American troops and units of other countries who took part in the war against Iraq leave the area of hostilities.

They believe in Moscow that the foreign military presence in the Gulf zone should not exceed the levels of 1st August last year. The countries of the region should play the central role in the settlement. If an outside military support is needed for some period, use could be made of the United Nations forces joined by the contingents of the Arab and other states. A navy too could act under the UN flag. It could ensure the safety of navigation in the Persian Gulf proper.

The United Nations international peacekeeping force was repeatedly used in the past to put out the hotbeds of tension on our planet. Three years ago they were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Today the United Nations peacekeeping force is to perform again a difficult and important mission, and we would like to hope it will be a success.

United States & Canada

Commentary Assails Powell El Salvador Remarks

LD1004091291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1159 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS international observer Gennadiy Petrov: "On the Way to a Pax Americana?"]

[Text] [no dateline as received] If one is to believe agency reports from Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, U.S. General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces, who was there on a two-hour visit, made a sensational statement: "Military action could be carried out in El Salvador with the aim of ending the internal armed conflict there, if the peace talks taking place in Mexico between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas end inconclusively... Peace talks are the best way to solve conflicts; but if necessary, a variant of the way in which the Persian Gulf crisis was overcome could be used."

It is indeed difficult to believe in the reality of such utterances. No open threats against its Latin American neighbors have been heard from the mouths of highly placed Pentagon officials since the days of the famous U.S. invasions of Grenada and Panama.

It seems, however, that the speedy, almost lightning fast war in the Persian Gulf really has turned the heads of the U.S. generals.

The prospect of intervention by the gigantic U.S. war machine in tiny El Salvador by no means appears absurd now to some people in Washington...

General Powell's reference to the scenario of the settlement of the conflict in the Persian Gulf which has just been approved is no less frightening than the actual threat of using force to make peace between the opposing sides in the Salvadoran civil war.

Of course, the long-drawn-out Salvadoran conflict, which has cost tens of thousands of lives, should be ended as soon as possible. The countries neighboring El Salvador, the great powers, the United Nations, and the whole of the world public can and must help with a peace settlement. But to bring peace to the long-suffering Salvadoran land with U.S. bayonets? It is hard to think of a more monstrous idea.

These questions seem logical: What has the "Gulf" scenario to do with it? Has El Salvador seized someone else's territory by force, and has the UN Security Council taken a resolution like the ultimatum to Iraq? Or has Washington, striving to establish a "Pax Americana" (American-style peace), come to believe that from now on the international community will automatically approve and bless any intervention by the United States in the internal affairs of sovereign countries?

However this may be, the remarks of the U.S. military chief lead one to think: In our time, at the end of the 20th century, in the United States, obviously, the attributes of the doctrine, sadly familiar to the Latin Americans, of the "big stick" and gunboat strategy are being brought out into the daylight.

New Ambassador To United States Appointed

LD0904183891 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—The Soviet president has appointed Viktor Komplektov as the Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United States.

He will replace Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, who is the Soviet foreign minister.

China

Eastern Border Draft Treaty Talks Completed

PM1004101791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 91 Union Edition p 7

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] A session of the working group of USSR and PRC government delegations for the elaboration of a treaty document for the Eastern section of the Soviet-Chinese state border was held in Moscow 28 March through 8 April. The work on preparing a draft agreement on the Soviet-Chinese state border on its Eastern sector was completed in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere. The participants in the working group were received by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister I.A. Rogachev, the head of the Soviet government delegation at the Soviet-Chinese border talks.

Northeast Asia

Japanese Envoy on Upcoming Gorbachev Visit

PM0904145891 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 12, 24-31 Mar 91 p 12

[Interview with Japanese Ambassador Sumio Edamura by Sergey Volovets: "A Sign of Hope"]

[Text] Q.: A peace treaty has still not been concluded between the USSR and Japan 45 years after the end of the war. The only obstacle is the future of four islands of the Kuril Habomai. Have our countries been able to make any progress on the eve of Gorbachev's visit?

A.: In Japan there is great hope that the expected visit will be of truly historic importance. Not only because it will be the first-ever visit by your head of state since the establishment of diplomatic relations a century ago, but also because of the possibilities it will create. For decades Soviet-Japanese dialogue on the territorial problem resembled a dialogue between people deaf and blind. The recent period has witnessed changes which justify our hopes. The Soviet side has proclaimed a course

towards a new mentality in politics, the priority of universal human values and law in international affairs.

This has enabled the Soviet leadership to depart from its previous position when the very existence of a territorial problem between our countries was denied. In the past we constantly heard this argument: there is a need to respect postwar realities. But you will agree that the postwar situation came into being through the use of force. If both sides agree with the supremacy of the law, then it's impossible to rest content with the situation which took shape at the moment of cease-fire, while there is a need to work for a solution based on agreement and law. In this case decisive importance gets attached to the principle of territorial non-expansion recognized by the USSR, and also to the circumstance that the four islands in question have never belonged to any other country except Japan.

Q.: There are well-known arguments and counterarguments on this score. But, in connection with the coming visit, don't you think that now there is the possibility of some compromise or temporary solution? After all, no one expects a statement on the immediate transfer of the islands.

A.: As I see it, the crust of the matter consists in the need for Japan and the USSR in the course of the visit to accomplish a breakthrough in the ultimate solution of this problem on the basis of legal principles and in a constructive spirit. Such a result of the visit would be very highly appraised by the Japanese people.

Q.: In the USSR the destiny of the islands has been directly linked at times to the possibility of obtaining massive economic aid. Japan has been described as the only locomotive capable of pulling the Soviet economy out of the crisis. Moreover, figures have even been given—from 50 to 200 billion dollars...

A.: There is no need to minimize the scope of our ties. Japan ranks third in the world in trade with the USSR after the FRG and Finland and third for the granting of credits after the FRG and France. Of course, a political settlement could raise our economic relations to a qualitatively new level. But I believe that problems and impediments lie not only in the sphere of policy but within the eocnomy, too. Speaking about trade, Japanese entrepreneurs now lack confidence that they will get the money for fulfilled orders in time. With the increase in the number of subjects of cooperation it happens to be difficult to understand who exactly is responsible in your country and what for. And, of course, the rouble's inconvertibility and the backward infrastructure: transport, communications, information. The solution of political issues will certainly make it easier to overcome these difficulties.

Q.: And yet how would you designate the scope of likely aid and cooperation?

A.: I can't define it now with full measure of responsibility. But, by way of analogy, it is possible to think about Japanese-Chinese relations. When political issues were settled and a treaty of peace and friendship signed in the late 1970s, China obtained loans from both the Japanese government and from the Import-Export Bank, and rapid progress was registered in contacts between the firms of the two countries.

Before coming to Moscow I was the Ambassador to Indonesia and I know full well that the matter depends not merely on the size of loans and aid, but also on the recipient country's ability to absorb them with good effect. When Indonesia got caught in hard economic straits, Japan doubled its aid. That aid proved to be effective solely because Indonesia's leadership had opted for a correct economic course.

I'm sure that the Soviet people will find a way out of the crisis. This will require effort on the part of your country. And if such effort is made, and favourable conditions provided, the USSR will be able to count on the expansion of cooperation with all countries, Japan included.

Japan's Kaifu Cited on Upcoming Gorbachev Visit

LD1004095791 Moscow TASS in English 0921 GMT 10 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Agarkov]

[Text] Tokyo April 10 TASS—Welcoming the forthcoming visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Japan, the Japanese Government favours establishing cooperation with the Soviet Union, said Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at a traditional government reception held in Tokyo every spring in celebration of the cherry blossoms.

The Japanese premier said that cooperation would be promoted by the conclusion of a peace treaty based on the settlement of territorial problems.

Kaifu also touched upon the forthcoming Japanese-Soviet summit when he addressed the budgetary commission of the upper chamber of Japanese parliament today. He said that thinking of the 21st century one cannot overlook the fact that the establishment of confidence between Japan and the USSR will promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world.

He said that the Japanese Government intends to continue supporting the perestroika pursued by the present Soviet leadership and to create by joint efforts a foundation for bilateral relations. At the same time the Japanese premier reiterated Tokyo's official adherence to a unified political and economic stance in relations with the USSR.

Loginov on Economic Ties With Japan

OW1004064791 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Report on interview with Andrey Loginov, director of the Soviet-Japanese Economic Cooperation Committee,

by correspondent (Kennov); place, date not given—Loginov remarks recorded in Russian fading into Japanese translation]

[Text] [Announcer] President Gorbachev's official visit to Japan will, needless to say, have a significant effect on entire Soviet-Japanese relations. It is likely that both sides will focus their attention on bilateral trade and economic ties at the upcoming talks. Regarding Soviet-Japanese economic ties, Radio moscow correspondent (Kennov) interviewed Andrey Loginov, director of the SJECC. Director Loginov said the following:

[Loginov] If you analyze the actual situation in Soviet-Japanese economic relations, you will find that an overall steady improvement is being made. It can not be said, however, that the current level of bilateral ties are satisfactory, because, they are not commensurate with the capability of the two countries. What I would like to emphasize in particular, is the fact that the Japanese business world has an objective interest in large-scale cooperation with the Soviet Union. Currently, both sides are studying the possibility of executing a series of large projects scheduled to be started in the near future. They are all connected to the development of natural resources in Siberia and the Soviet Far East region. First of all, we can name such projects as the one designed to supply coal to Japan from southern Yakut, and Sakhalin oil and gas development. The total amount of last year's bilateral trade reached 3.5 billion rubles. However, negotiations are being conducted for a series of other projects which could significantly increase the amount of Soviet-Japanese trade.

[Announcer] That is what Director Loginov said. Then the correspondent asked which field will be the hopeful [word in distinct] for Soviet-Japanese cooperation at this stage. In response, the director explained:

[Loginov] Of course, the new direction of SJECC [Soviet-Japanese Economic Cooperation Committee] activities are coming into view. This direction can be called the bud of bilateral cooperation. First of all, we can name scientific and technological cooperation in this regard. Recently, the Japanese side expressed for the first time, that they were interested in scientific and technological cooperation. However, the Soviet side has been studying this issue for a long time, and actual action has already been taken in this field. An exhibition designed to introduce the newest results of Soviet science and technology, and an academic seminar, were held in Tokyo in March of this year. Some 20 modern technologies were introduced. Thanks to the exhibition, the Japanese business world had a chance to see the results of modern Soviet science and technology, and to meet with the inventors of this technology directly. Perhaps, this opportunity will be linked to the successful conclusion of various business deals.

To name actual cases, many major Japanse companies are actively seeking cooperation with enterprises of the Soviet national defense industry in the field of consumer goods production. Results of Soviet science and technology, and Japanese experience in the field of production, are being utilized to produce consumer goods at military factories. Let me iterate that there are actual cases similar to the case I have just mentioned. I think that this is a field with a very bright future.

[Announcer] Director Loginov said that and continued to explain as follows:

[Loginov] We can name not only this but also other hopeful fields as well. For example, tourism is one of them. A subcommittee meeting by those who are in charge of tourism was held for the first time. This is an area of cooperation yet to be developed to a great extent in the Soviet Union. Japanese tourists in particular, are very curious and active. You can find Japanese tourists in various places. Their interest in the Soviet Far East in particular, is growing very big.

The Soviet side has its own proposals regarding cooperation in this field. We can plan tours using comfortable ships. Also, we can plan tours to transport Japanese tourists from the Pacific coast to Lake Baykal by trains between Baykal and Amur. Tourists can enjoy the natural beauty of the Soviet Far East and Siberia. We must not fail to mention tours to learn about Japanese experience in the field of industrial economy. It is an important and hopeful area of Soviet-Japanese cooperation. The SJECC has already organized such trips. We are dispatching delegations, composed of leaders of major industries that represent an important sector of the Soviet national economy, to Japan in order to learn Japan's experience in production management, and to make direct contact with joint-venture partners. Such forms of cooperation are very beneficial and have the potential to develop future relations. These leading Soviet industries are, indeed, major cornerstones of foreign economic relations so that we are exerting efforts to introduce them to the Japanese market.

[Announcer] That is what Director Loginov said. A question was then raised asking him what are the major measures necessary for securing the most ideal conditions for the development of Soviet-Japanese cooperation. In response, Mr. Loginov answered as follows:

[Loginov] It is necessary to implement comprehensive measures in order to realize large-scale projects regarding mining and the processing of natural resources. In other words, I think we have to construct the social infrastructure, settle ecological problems, and carry out multi-stepped [as heard] and diversified processing of raw materials for the natives.

In addition, the interests of all people concerned, including national and local organizations, and the production industries themselves, have to agree with each other. For example, the same thing can be said of the project designed to develop natural resources in Sakhalin. Sakhalin Oblast cannot realize the large-scale project, which is expected to cost them $9 billion in total, by itself. Instructions from the central government,

expenditures of [word indistinct], and the participaton of major banks, insurance companies, and research institutions are needed.

Speaking from a more global viewpoint, it is necessary of course, more than anything else, to normalize Soviet-Japanese relations first, and create legal foundations. Such foundations, if realized, will exert a strong impact on the development and expansion of trade and economic ties. And, they will be based on long and stable relations. In this sense, I think that President Gorbachev's upcoming trip to Japan will settle this issue in many fields.

Rogachev Meets South Korean Envoy in Moscow

LD1004002291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1201 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr (TASS)—Today a meeting between Igor Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister, and Kong No-myong, the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the USSR, took place. During the meeting some specific issues of Soviet-South Korean cooperation were discussed.

Report Says Kim Chong-il Seeking PRC Backing

PM0904111991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 91 Union Edition p 6

[V. Lukashin report: "Mission to Beijing: Unannounced Visit"]

[Text] Pyongyang—Citing Japan's MAINICHI, Seoul radio announced 4 April that Kim Chong-il, son of the DPRK president and member of the Politburo Presidium and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and member of the party's Central Military Committee, had arrived in Beijing on an unofficial visit.

Foreign trips by party and state figures of this rank are commonplace these days, but this news was regarded as a sensation in Pyongyang diplomatic circles. Most interesting is the fact that there have not yet been any official reports of his mission to Beijing. However, nor has there been any denial from the DPRK Foreign Ministry

So what has brought Kim Chong-il to China? In his commentary the Seoul radio observer voiced the supposition that in the course of his meetings with PRC leaders he would discuss a number of questions linked with the possible admission of the North and the South to the United Nations There are a host of contradictions in this problem. The Seoul administration, for instance, wants the joint entry of the two Koreas. Pyongyang holds a different stance. If the DPRK refuses, the South intends to become a member of the United Nations unilaterally. China's view of this question is still not known, but the Korean leader is evidently trying to win Beijing's support. People in Seoul think that it is quite possible that Kim Chong-il will ask China's leaders to help Pyongyang broaden Sino-Korean relations.

However, for the moment these are just stories being put about by journalists in Tokyo and Seoul. For instance, I am even allowing for the fact that the "hot news" is just another rumor of which there are already more than enough with regard to "events in Pyongyang." But if we assume that the MAINICHI report is true, then I think that the visit to Beijing has a quite different aim...

The second session of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Ninth Convocation, will convene 11 April. This is an important event. The agenda has still not been announced, but a WPK Central Committee plenum may be held ahead of it to examine cadre questions. The plenum may also discuss the question of the continuity of party and state power in the DPRK.

Kim Il-song will be 79 years old 15 April—an extremely venerable age. Only the "beloved leader," as Kim Chong-il is called in the DPRK, has been named as his successor. However, the young leader needs reliable backing outside the country. Most likely, this is what has brought Kim Chong-il to China. He first visited Beijing in 1983 at the invitation of the CPC Central Committee leadership. At the time this visit only became known about two months later. That will probably also be the case now.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Le Quang Dao Interviewed on Joint Cooperation

BK0804145591 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Interview with Le Quang Dao, SRV National Assembly chairman and head of a Vietnamese delegation on a recent visit to the USSR, by a Moscow radio correspondent; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dear comrade, what is the potential for Vietnam-USSR cooperation?

[Le Quang Dao] As you comrades already know, Vietnam has always contended that all victories of our people in the struggle against foreign aggressors in the past and in the current socialist construction were in close association with the Soviet Union's great and effective support and assistance. In Vietnam, we have closely monitored the restructuring undertaking of the Soviet Union and we are firmly convinced that the Soviet people will finally achieve their goal.

I would like to assert here that the Vietnamese party and state have unswervingly maintained a foreign policy of solidarity, friendship, and all-around cooperation with the Soviet Union. At present, economic cooperation between the two countries has been strengthened and expanded while initial results have been achieved by both sides. Of course, in the efforts to promote and

enhance results of cooperation between the two countries, we have faced difficulties in resolving some issues. We, however, welcome and highly appraise the agreements signed by the two countries to renovate the cooperation mechanism and the treaty on economic and trade cooperation signed in 1991 by our two governments. This is an event of great significance in the Vietnam-USSR relations. It manifests the aspiration and determination of both sides to continue to maintain and develop their multifaceted cooperation to meet the requirements of the new situation. The most important thing now is to urgently provide guidances for effective implementation of these agreemenets. During our visit to the USSR, my delegation has had working sessions with members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and both sides agreed that we will make positive efforts to accelerate this task.

We believe that with efforts made by both sides, the Vietnam-USSR cooperation will firmly develop further on the basis of the renovation cause for the interests of the two peoples and for peace and social progress in the world.

Near East & South Asia

Nabil 'Amr on PLO's 'Qualitatively New Era'

LD0804175991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1608 GMT 8 Apr 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Igor Bulanov and Yuriy Rublevskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr (TASS)—"A qualitatively new era has began in the activities of the PLO," Nabil 'Amr, the ambassador of the state of Palestine to the USSR, stated at a press conference here today.

The political work of the PLO, the diplomat stated, is carried out intensively and apace. "We approach especially seriously the search for ways of settling the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole", Nabil 'Amr stressed. He expressed hope that the United Nations Organization "which coped with the settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis quite successfully" will play a similar role in providing similar "effective efforts in the Near East."

The ambassador gave a high assessment of the results of the recent meeting of the joint Soviet-Palestinian Committee in Tunis, and of the visit of Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, to Cairo, where he had conversations with representatives of the Egyptian leadership. This trip, Nabil 'Amr reported, was followed by a visit to Jordan.

The PLO, the Palestinian diplomat said, is attentively studying "the most varied aspects of the positions of all sides relating to Near East affairs." The organisation's efforts are directed at developing and strengthening contacts with Arab countries. "The deep wounds inflicted upon all of us by the events in the Persian Gulf demand that serious efforts be made in the search for just and lasting peace in the Near East region," he stressed.

The PLO, the ambassador pointed out, is making attempts to renew the dialogue with the United States. During a recent meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and a delegation of Palestinians from the lands occupied by Israel, James Baker stressed that "the dialogue with the PLO has not been dropped, it has been put on ice." This allows, according to the words of the Palestinian diplomat, one to hope for the renewal of the dialogue with the United States. At present, he reported, one more delegation is being formed for a meeting with James Baker. "Such contacts are not an alternative to contacts between the United States and the PLO," Nabil 'Amr believes. They should be considered as important steps along the path toward renewal of the dialogue.

Touching on relations with the USSR, the ambassador described "the political support rendered by the Soviet Union to the PLO as important on the whole and at the present stage".

At the same time Nabil 'Amr noted that relations between the PLO and certain Persian Gulf countries "are not normal or natural in most aspects." At present, he stressed, serious efforts are being exerted to normalize them.

Envoy's Further Comments

LD0804214991 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1930 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Report on news conference by Nabil 'Amr, State of Palestine ambassador to the USSR, in Moscow on 8 April by correspondent Aleksandr Levchenko—'Amr remarks recorded in Arabic fading to Russian translation]

[Text] [Levchenko] There were very many questions touched upon in the course of the meeting between the ambassador of the state of Palestine and Soviet and foreign journalists. This is perfectly natural as now, after the crisis in the Persian Gulf has been resolved, the Palestinian problem is coming to the fore in the region. The ambassador said in particular:

['Amr] After the United Nations Organization has coped very successfully with the crisis in the Persian Gulf, a common striving toward the UN playing a similar role with regard to the Palestinian problem is being observed. The PLO is very closely studying the various aspects of the positions of all sides concerned. I can say that now we are preparing a meeting of the Central Council of Palestine and are developing and deepening contacts with various Arab countries. We have worked for and will work for a search for a just and lasting peace in the region.

[Levchenko] I will tell you right away that the PLO is going through a fairly adverse period now. A number of countries of the Persian Gulf have refused to finance the PLO because in the period of the crisis the Palestinians supported Iraq's position. Here is how the ambassador himself commented on this:

['Amr] now the relations between the PLO and the Gulf countries are not normal or natural in most aspects. Of course, we are making efforts in order to overcome all complications which have arisen in connection with the crisis and, in doing so, we have always taken seriously the statement by the Gulf states, first and foremost Saudi Arabia, which has promised that it will not stop financial support for the Palestinian movement. We hope that our relations will return to normal in the near future and this concerns not only the granting of actual material assistance itself. That is not the most important thing. Far more important is interaction with countries on the political level.

[Levchenko] Replying to my question as to how the Palestinians now regard their support for Baghdad's position during the crisis, the ambassador said:

['Amr] I would not agree with the claim that we fully supported Baghdad's position. I remind you that we came out with a plan for a political settlement of the problem which was discussed by the Soviet side. It contained the demand to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait, but we were unable to prevent military operations. Possibly it has not been possible to explain fully our position at various levels. Now we have the boldness to admit that some of our assessments have turned out to be inaccurate. They are being revised and rectified. But I think nevertheless that concentrating too closely on the past stands in the way of correctly assessing the present situation and building plans for the future.

Proposals for Mideast Conference Viewed

LD0904185191 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Honorable listeners here is an item on the visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Israel: [passage omitted]

Baker arrived yesterday evening in Israel within the framework of his tour of the Middle East. The main objective of his visit to Israel, the second within a month, in the view of commentators, is to try to move the efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. There are assumptions that the U.S. secretary of state will propose to the Israeli leadership and the Palestinians the idea of a regional conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. The details of this idea are not known yet, however, the aim of it, as the French paper LE MONDE believes, is to hold a restricted conference similar in nature to the direct negotiations being proposed by Israel between the main parties to the conflict. This, it seems, is what has defined the reaction of the Palestinian side to the expected Baker proposals. One of the PLO leaders has said in Tunis that the Palestinians will say, when meeting Baker, that the idea of a regional conference is totally rejected.

According to the information available to the PLO, the American proposals stipulate holding a meeting between Israel and the main Arab countries to settle Arab-Israeli relations before anything else. As for the Palestinian problem, it was placed in the second category, and regarding the Palestinian state there will not even be a mention of it. However, as a member of the Palestinian delegation, Zakariyah al-Agha, has said: Wrong is he who thinks it is possible to hold negotiations without the PLO. The Israeli leadership is also not announcing a preparedness to accept every proposal from Baker despite the presence of indications for possible progress. In an endeavor to neutralize the possible criticism of oppression against the Palestinians and to create a positive impression with the American guest, Tel Aviv announced its intention to release nearly 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in the coming days. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, confrontations and the sound of fire continue in the occupied territories. What is indicative is the fact that Baker's talks in Israel coincide with the beginning of the 41st month of the intifadah in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Belonogov Ends Morocco Visit 9 Apr

LD0904153991 Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondents Sergey Babkin and Oleg Shirokov]

[Text] Rabat April 9 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov, who held political consultations in Morocco between April 6-9, has ended his visit to this country.

During his visit, he met Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali and Secretary-General of the Moroccan Foreign Ministry Ahmed Cherkaoui.

They had a thorough discussion of some key international and regional issues, focusing on a post-crisis settlement in the Gulf region, ways to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Middle East situation on the whole.

They also discussed some aspects of U.N. peace-making activities, including in Western Sahara, and initiatives to promote security and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The sides stated a wide coincidence or proximity of views on the issues discussed.

Commentary on World Reaction to Kurds' Plight

LD0904151191 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Mikhail Mayorov commentary]

[Excerpts] The Kurdish problem has emerged as an acute and largely unexpected continuation of the Gulf crisis. At a conference of European Community countries in Luxembourg and at bilateral consultations at different levels, it is discussed with the same degree of anxiety as was the elimination of the consequences of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait recently discussed. Commentary is by Mikhail Mayorov:

The situation is delicate because, in this case, interference by the international community has its limits. The Kurdish uprising in Iraq and its actual suppression by the regime of Saddam Husayn are purely internal affairs and remain such, even when one can see fresh traces of bombings on Iraqi territory.

For the rest of the world, the problem is transforming from a legal into a moral one. There is still the spirit of unanimity in the world community that was demonstrated when Iraq attacked Kuwait. When Resolution 688 of the Security Council on repressions against Kurds in Iraq was put to the vote last Friday, the situation was largely the same in which the steps against the Iraqi aggression were taken. By an overwhelming majority, the United Nations urged Baghdad to stop the repressions and favored humanitarian aid to the Kurds. The United Nations secretary general is sending a special fact-finding mission to Iraq.

This is not only the question of emotional reaction to the developments. Even though eyewitnesses have painted hair-raising pictures of the shooting of hundreds of thousands of Kurdish women, children, and old men from Iraqi helicopters, of people left without homes, warm clothing, and food, the matter is that the problem is assuming an international scale, as the situation is becoming critical in the whole region.

Evidently the world community will come out with other ideas concerning the Kurdish problem and a Middle East settlement as a whole. As we see, the situation is such that one and the same hotspot requires sustained, large-scale, and energetic efforts on the part of the whole world community. Humanity seems to have learned to react to crises flexibily, even though in one case it implies the elimination of the consequences of aggression and in another emergency aid to hundreds of thousands of people. Commentary was by Mikhail Mayorov.

Afro-Asian Committee Issues Statement on Kurds

LD1004095191 Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT 10 April 91

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee has firmly demanded an end to the extermination of Kurds in Iraq, the public organisation said in a statement issued today.

Iraqi residents are living through an unprecedented tragedy. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have suffered under violence and arbitrary rule, the war "having moved from battlefields in Kuwait to Iraqi towns and villages.

Having ruthlessly dealt with the anti-governmental popular actions in the country's southern areas, the document says, the troops loyal to the regime launched brutal warfare against the insurgent Kurdish people in the north of Iraq.

The drama now being witnessed in Kurdistan, the statement stresses, is one of the most tragic in the Kurdish people's history. Thousands have died as a result of napalm, bullets and starvation. There are masses of refugees, and the people's very existence is threatened.

The committee urges the international governmental and public organisations and all people of good will to do their utmost to promote peace and tranquility in that country.

Sub-Saharan Africa

South African Ties Upgraded Via Interest Sections

PM0904145691 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 12, 24-31 Mar 91 p 12

[Report on interview with Vladimir Kazimirov, head of USSR Foreign Ministry Department for African Countries, by Igor Nekrasov; date place not given: "Moscow-Pretoria: Expanding Contacts Through 'Sections of Interests'"]

[Text] "Sections of interests" are not embassies, but their emergence after nearly 35 years of estrangement between the two countries is significant. However, Foreign Ministry officials regard this as routine and remain reserved about more radical steps towards wider cooperation with South Africa, like those taken by several East European countries.

"This is not yet to be taken as a real improvement in relations between the two countries," MN was told by Vladimir Kazimirov, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department for African Countries. "That would be a premature conclusion while the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa is not yet irreversible, and international economic and political sanctions remain in effect. Nonetheless, we can't ignore important democratic transformations under taken by De Klerk's government which naturally encourage us to start expanding contacts!"

[Nekrasov] What are these "sections of interests" all about?

[Kazimirov] After consultations with our traditional partner in South Africa, the African National Congress, we've reached agreements with the South African and Austrian governments to set up sections within the

Austrian embassies. These sections will monitor day-to-day contacts. A small group of Soviet staff is presently leaving for Pretoria. It's been commissioned to examine the situation and make contacts with all sides involved in political settlement in the country, as well as to probe into possibilities for wider economic cooperation.

Diplomatic relations between our countries haven't been established yet, hence neither the South African section in Moscow nor its Soviet counterpart in Pretoria has the right to use the flag, the emblem or any other symbols of their countries.

[Nekrasov] Is it possible to get visas or establish business contacts through the sections?

[Kazimirov] Perhaps they will perform some consulate functions, which is understandable since both countries are seeking closer contacts. However I would like to warn impatient businessmen against hasty deals with South Africans. Sanctions against South Africa are still in force and that should be kept in mind so as not to damage the international prestige of the Soviet Union and its long-range national interests.

East Europe

Bessmertnykh, Loncar Hold News Conference

LD1004093791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1442 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Apr (TASS)—Mutual satisfaction at the results of Soviet-Yugoslav talks was expressed by USSR Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Budimir Loncar, SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs, at a news conference here today. They stressed that all basic problems of bilateral relations and the positions of both sides on key international issues were examined over a brief period. Furthermore, viewpoints were very similar or even coincided in full.

In the opinion of both ministers, there is now a need to concentrate efforts on overcoming the decline in trade and economic links, which has been caused both by objective reasons linked with processes involved in economic reform and by subjective factors, particularly, in the view of A. Bessmertnykh, the insufficiently considered switch to reciprocal accounting in convertible currency and the rejection of clearing. His viewpoint was supported by B. Loncar, who also emphasized that it would be unnatural to cut back on trade given that the economies of both parties are highly complementary in nature.

Answering questions about the possibility of certain republics leaving the USSR or the SFRY, the ministers of the two countries stressed that this problem must be resolved by democratic means, the observance of constitutional procedures, and respect for the rights and freedoms of people of all nationalities. "We think highly of the constructive role; of Yugoslavia in Europe and the world," A. Bessmertnykh stressed; "we consider that it can continue to play this role only as a united whole. We are in favor of its integrity and unity and see relations between the republics and the Yugoslav federation as the internal affair of the Yugoslav peoples. We hope that they will find a democratic way to resolve their problems."

"We are convinced," B. Loncar emphasized, "that the unity of Yugoslavia, its profound democratic development, and the implementation of reform policy are indivisible. In the same way, the unity and integrity of the Soviet Union as a multinational community constitutes a prerequisite for further democratic reforms in the USSR and the continuation of the policy of perestroyka which is valued internationally," he added.

"Unfortunately, the restricted time scale of my visit has not permitted me to have meetings with representatives of individual republics in the SFRY who expressed an interest in such meetings," A. Bessmertnykh said. "Of course, in principle, a meeting with the leaders of all Yugoslav republics would have been very useful and I hope that such a meeting may take place in the future."

Asked about the current state of Soviet-U.S. relations, the minister stated that they are developing normally although they are going through testing times. Among the main priorities for their current development he mentioned the task of seeing through to the end talks on concluding a treaty to reduce strategic offensive weapons, which is now 90 percent ready. Positions have also to be clarified on an agreement on conventional weapons, but here too ways toward a solution are visible. "After these knots have finally been undone I think that a Soviet-U.S. summit meeting will take place. In any case, the leaderships of both countries confirm their interest in this," A. Bessmertnykh stressed.

Bessmertnykh on SFRY Unity

LD0904133891 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade April 9 TASS - Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said the Soviet Union was guided by the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and had no sympathy for attempts to internationalise internal affairs in Yugoslavia.

"We favour maintaining the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, visualising in this integrity one of the all-important pre- conditions for European security," Bessmertnykh said in an interview with the Yugoslav newspaper BORBA.

Solving the internal problems of sovereign Yugoslavia is a matter for its peoples, he went on. They should decide themselves, without any outside interference, how they will live. It is necessary that in relation to Yugoslavia all parties abide by the principles of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

On problems in economic relations between the USSR and Yugoslavia, Bessmertnykh pointed out that both

sides proved to be ill-prepared for the transition to settlements in freely convertible currency, which started from the beginning of this year. He described this factor as one reason behind the shrinking trade turnover. "But I think that the situation should not be dramatised too much and, moreover, should not be politically tinged," he said.

Asked about a change in the USSR's role in the world, Bessmertnykh emphasised that the Soviet Union was and remains the great power. He said there was a host of political, historic and geographical factors determining the Soviet Union's outstanding role in the world arena. In addition, the potential of the country and the peoples living in it guarantees their great future, he said.

"Even now, when we are going through one of the most difficult periods in our development, linked with sweeping structural changes, realistically-minded politicians do not imagine that international problems can be solved without the Soviet Union's vigorous participation," Bessmertnykh said.

Poll Official Comments on Albanian Violence

PM0804093591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 91 Second Edition p 4

["On The Spot" report by special correspondent Ye. Fadeyev: "Gunfire After the Elections"]

[Text] Tirana, 3 Apr—The results of the elections to the republic's People's Assembly have been summed up in Albania. Your correspondent asked R. Mejdani, chairman of the central electoral commission, to comment on them.

"In all, 98 percent of the electorate participated in the elections," R. Mejdani announced. "Some 231 of the 250 National Assembly deputies have been elected. Some 19 candidates face a second round, having failed to obtain the requisite number of votes. They include F. Nano, chairman of the country's Council of Ministers. The Albanian Workers Party [AWP] has 162 seats in parliament. Its main rival—the Democratic Party—has 65.

"For PRAVDA's benefit it gives me special pleasure to add a few words to the official data," said R. Mejdani, a Tirana University professor, who, incidentally, is not in any party. "The AWP was the clear winner. The election was a very energetic affair. But there were no incidents. What happens now?"

R. Mejdani made a vague gesture. As if he had foreseen it. At that very moment unfortunate events were unfolding in Shkoder, one of the country's biggest industrial centers. After yesterday's contradictory reports, it is now possible to reconstruct them.

Supporters of the Democratic Party, which won the election in that city, held a rally outside the AWP city committee building, demanding that the communists leave the building immediately. They were addressed by A. Brotstsi [name as transliterated], leader of the city's democrats. He asked the rally participants to disperse.

It was then, Democratic Party representatives claim, that a shot rang out and Brotstsi was killed. The crowd burst into the AWP city committee building and started wrecking the premises. The city committee secretary was seriously wounded.

Three people were killed and around 30 wounded in clashes with special militia subunits that had been immediately sent in. Four of the wounded are in a serious condition. A truck and a car belonging to the militia and two armored personnel carriers were burned out.

It has not yet been established who started the trouble. But one thing is clear: The situation in Albania has deteriorated.

Yesterday party and state head R. Alia met with S. Berisha, one of the leaders of the Democratic Party. The sides admitted that calm and restraint must be maintained in the republic. The People's Assembly presidium made a similar appeal to the population.

G. Polo, Democratic Party press secretary, also talked in these terms at a meeting with journalists in Tirana. Answering a rather tactless question put by a Western journalist: "Will the Democratic Party be urging a popular uprising?" the press secretary said:

"No. Following the parliamentary elections what Albania particularly needs is calm. We advocate peaceful and legal actions."

Albanian Democrats Criticized

PM1004075591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 91 Second Edition p 6

["Albanian Reportage" by special correspondent Ye. Fadeyev: "Civil Peace or Civil War?]

[Text] Tirana, 5 Apr—The communists, as people will know, won the elections in Albania. Representatives of the Democrats have officially recognized the elections as lawful. At the same time, while obtaining a sufficient number of seats in the republic People's Assembly (parliament), their leaders have flatly rejected any possible alliance on the question of creating a coalition government.

Tuesday, as already reported, saw tragic events take place in Shkoder: Three people were killed and around 30 injured in clashes between Democratic Party supporters and the police. Yesterday the deputy leader of the Democratic Party's organization in Shkoder died in that city from injuries received. And the opposition has now declared a strike to protest the deaths of its supporters.

I visited the Democratic Party headquarters, located in downtown Tirana. When I asked him what the next move would be, press service director G. Pollo gave the

following concise reply: "The murder of our representatives is a political crime. And we will not leave it there."

...Many of the correspondents who have come here have the impression that the Albanian Workers' Party [AWP] expected a solid, 100-percent victory rather than the one it got (65 percent of the votes), and that the success of Democrat representatives—particularly in the cities—surprised it. The communists clearly somewhat underrated the opposition party set up just 3 months ago. Not to mention the fact that President R. Alia, Foreign Minister M. Kapllani, and a number of other high-ranking leaders failed to secure the required number of votes and were not elected to parliament.

A second round of elections is now due to take place in which only the two candidates who obtained the largest number of votes last Sunday will stand. The opposition intends to contest the remaining 19 parliamentary seats.

Yes, the communists won. But mainly among the peasants. Among the intelligentsia they lost.

It goes without saying that we are all aware of the tunnel vision shown by the Land of the Eagles and the kind of tragic consequences to which regimented socialism can lead. And yet, if you regard the unrestrained hooliganism demonstrated by teenagers in Sukoder as democracy, it is not difficult to imagine what such "new" forces could lead to.

In conversation with me S. Milloshi, deputy chief editor and executive secretary of ZERI I POPULLIT, said the following:

"The opposition has far more emotion than sense. I will be even more scathing: The opposition wants to consume as quickly as possible not just a piece of the cake (although it is not that tasty) but the whole cake. Our party has started the revival of the country and a number of fundamental reforms. Will the present actions of the opposition and, above all, the Democratic Party serve the common cause? By their irresponsible actions the opposition could provoke a civil war. But I nevertheless believe in the eventual victory of sense and will.

The Albanian People's Assembly Presidium is urging all political parties and public organizations to help maintain civil peace.

FRG Paper's Article on Polish Talks Slanderous

PM0904115991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Apr 91 First Edition p 3

[Lieutenant Colonel V. Panarin report: "DER SPIEGEL Misinforms..."]

[Text] In a recent issue the magazine DER SPIEGEL published a slanderous article which is essentially a distortion of the facts. It was devoted to the recent talks between Army General M.A. Moiseyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, and Polish Foreign Minister K. Skubiszewski on the terms for the presence and withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Republic of Poland and also on the transit across Polish territory of the Western Group of Forces, which is being pulled out of Germany.

This was an official meeting held in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere, in the course of which the sides sought a mutually acceptable solution to these questions. And, as the latest round of talks showed, it helped to advance some of them substantially, particularly regarding the troop withdrawal procedure. The necessary accords were thereby reached during Army General M.A. Moiseyev's two-day visit to Warsaw, and groundwork was laid for a profitable meeting at the head of government level.

The chief of General Staff unequivocally declared that the withdrawal of our troops from Polish territory will begin in the very near future. The convincing arguments cited in favor of that decision left the Polish side no grounds for doubts. However, DER SPIEGEL "started to have doubts" and even tried at all costs to uncover intrigue in the sides' official relations. The article emphasizes, in particular, that the great power's representative found himself in an unusual role when he was forced to act as a suppliant, appealing "to the conscience of the fraternal Polish nation and for understanding of the Soviet Union's problems."

The atmosphere at the official talks, the questions raised there, and the foundation of long-standing Soviet-Polish traditions thoroughly sweep aside, so to speak, the "factual aspect" presented by the magazine. This was also confirmed by the Polish foreign minister himself in an interview, when he noted the positive and constructive nature of the dialogue which had taken place. And then the author of the article contradicts himself: Do "occupiers," as he calls the Soviet servicemen, really ask?! The older generation, which lived through World War II, knows that occupiers usually take without asking.

We have no need to touch our forelock to the Polish side. Our temporary presence on Polish territory is linked, above all, with the Soviet Army's liberation mission during the years of World War II, thanks to which the Polish people not only secured freedom and independence, but also hundreds of villages and cities were saved from destruction. And in the postwar period our presence was dictated by the complex military-political situation on the European Continent and was undertaken at the request of the Polish Government. As regards the real occupation, our people laid down 640,000 human lives for the expulsion of those occupiers and Poland's liberation. This ought to be remembered, particularly by a magazine published in Germany.

Bessmertnykh-Hungary's Somogyi Meeting Noted

PM0904113191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 91 Union Edition p 5

[TASS report under general headline: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 3 April USSR Foreign Minister A.A. Bessmertnykh received F. Somogyi, state secretary at the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, who is in Moscow in connection with Soviet-Hungarian political consultations. During an examination of urgent international problems attention was devoted, in particular, to the development of the all-European process and UN activity. Questions of the further improvement of Soviet-Hungarian cooperation and the development of the political dialogue between the two countries were discussed.

West Europe

Yazov Denies Violating Conventional Arms Treaty

LD0904135891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1145 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr (TASS)—"Following the conclusion of the Paris treaty on conventional weapons in Europe, the Soviet Union has not violated a single one of its pledges," Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Yazov, USSR minister of defense, stated. He granted an interview to your TASS correspondent today after completing his talk with Alfred Dregger, chairman of the CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] group of the FRG Bundestag, who is visiting the Soviet Union.

Marshal Yazov said that in fact "everything is perfectly clear" concerning the problem, touched on during the talk, of the relocation of some Soviet tanks beyond the Urals, something being inflated persistently in the West. "This relocation was carried out long before the mandate was worked out at the Vienna talks," the minister stressed.

According to Marshal Yazov, the allegation that "the Soviet Union concealed three of its tank divisions" was also touched on at the meeting. The defense minister said "that evidently the matter concerns not tank divisions, but motor-rifle divisions." One each was included in the composition three fleets as coastal defense units, Dmitriy Yazov asserts. He added that this step is purely the internal affair of the USSR. "All the equipment at the disposal of these divisions has been counted and included in the total amount of weapons which we still have according to the treaty," Dmitriy Yazov stressed.

The problem of reducing strategic offensive arms was also examined during the conversation, he said.

The USSR defense minister said: "The matter concerning the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the FRG was also examined." Certain parts of the mass media are working up an unhealthy atmosphere around Soviet military camps and calling on soldiers to desert from the Army. "The unfriendly nature of such actions is contrary to the spirit and letter of the treaties concluded between the USSR and the FRG," the marshal said in conclusion.

Yakovlev Visits UK, Honored by University

LD0704224191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 7 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] London, 7 Apr (TASS)—Aleksandr Yakovlev, adviser to the USSR president, arrived in Great Britain today at the invitation of the administration of Exeter University, which has conferred upon him an honorary doctorate of science for his contribution to strengthening peace and international security. The official degree award ceremony will take place on 8 April.

During this unofficial visit, A. Yakovlev will meet Douglas Hurd, secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs; Conservative Party Chairman Christopher Patten; Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party; and Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of Great Britain.

During the meetings, the sides will touch upon topical international problems and will exchange opinions on Soviet-British relations.

Latin America & Caribbean

Politburo's Shenin Receives Cuban Envoy

PM0904155191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 91 Second Edition p 5

[Unattributed report under general headline: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 4 April O.S. Shenin, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met with J.R. Balaguer, Cuban ambassador to the USSR.

Topical questions of Soviet-Cuban relations were examined during a conversation which was held in a spirit of friendly mutual understanding.

TASS on Cuba's Renewed Rejection of Captalism

LD0504174491 Moscow TASS in English 1638 GMT 4 Apr 91

[By TASS correpsondent Andrey Borodin]

[Text] Havana April 4 TASS—Cuba will never return to capitalism, Cuban leader Fidel Castro said on Wednesday.

Addressing a 400,000-strong rally in Revolution Square, Castro said Cuban citizens having learnt true freedom and national independence, will not allow a return to the past, when there were lots of gambling-houses and brothels in Cuban cities, and bare-footed children and beggars wandered their streets.

During the rally, it was announced that the Sixth Congress of the Young Communist Union will convene in April 1992.

"Capitalism is trying to tempt peoples of the world with phantoms of the consumer society, but we should not forget that it has brought humiliation and suffering to people and created a society living according to the law of the jungle," Castro said.

Difficulties in the Soviet Union, whose government is exerting efforts to stabilise the situation in the country, and the disintegration of the socialist camp in Eastern Europe, where negative aftermaths of the transition to market relations have manifested themselves, give imperialists grounds to dream about the time when the Cuban revolution will collapse under the burden of such problems, Castro said.

Their dreams are absurd, as Cubans have enough courage to endure all hardships and difficulties in the name of socialism, he said.

"For a long time, Cuba was described as 'the Soviet Union's satellite', but our country is only a satellite of high principles and revolutionary ideas. History gives us the right to say that Cuba is the world's most independent country," Castro said.

Addressing young people, Castro warned that it is necessary to prepare for "hard times", when the lack of oil products will be even more acute. But Cubans are ready to ride bicycles and use oxen to plough land, Castro said.

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Proceedings 9 Apr Reported

LD0904204191

Moscow Central Television Program Network in Russian at 1852 GMT on 9 April broadcasts a 35-minute "At the Supreme Soviet Session" program of recorded excerpts from the USSR Supreme Soviet session in the Moscow Kremlin on 9 April.

The program begins with a deputy reporting on behalf of the ecological committee on ecological accidents. Much was done last year to improve ecological conditions through the committee, he says. Measures are being taken to provide healthy food for children around Chernobyl. Deputy Karpov is shown close up in the hall.

Deputy Gubanov notes the strange situation of the varying status of people who have suffered from the Chernobyl accident, and he advocates the law under discussion as a unifying factor. He reads out a list of the number of those citizens who will be affected by the law.

At 1906 GMT the announcer notes that the deputies discussed the draft law on dealing with the victims of Chernobyl. Some deputies thought the law should be analoguous to those already in force in Belorussian and the Ukraine. The video again shows Deputy Karpov. The draft law was passed, the announcer affirms.

Deputy Chernysheva argues in favor of the next draft law under discussion - the law against violence and pornography in society. He stresses the need for morality in society. While letting prices go we have also let values go too, he contends. He maintains that the Moscow Soviet has registered a society of necrophiliacs, homosexuals, lesbians, pedophiles, and zoophiles. He complains about the influence video shops have on youth. He says there is insufficient legislation to prosecute perverters of morals, and he warns of the AIDS explosion.

An unidentified deputy calls for the punishment of those who create and trade in pornography. He criticizes so-called "beauty contests." A society is judged by its attitude toward its women, he says, and there can be no forgiveness for pornographers.

At 1922 GMT an unidentified deputy compares the USSR today with ancient Rome before its moral decay. The Soviet Union has the Young Communist League to guide youth, or this is what it should be doing, he says, but the reality is very pitiful. The video shows Culture Minister Gubenko listening. Soviet citizens are now exposed to what Europeans and Americans are saved from, the speaker goes on. He adds that the Union of Composers is bankrupt, and the Union of Writers will be likewise in 1992. Culture is suffering and being replaced by pornography, he asserts.

The announcer notes that the draft law was adopted as a basis. The announcer adds that session also approved the appointments of Stroganov as chairman of the State Committee for Machinebuilding and Soskovets as the new minister for metallurgy.

Legislature Approves Appointments

LD0904185891 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Excerpts] Moscow April 9 TASS—The Soviet parliament today met in a joint session of its two chambers to continue to form the Cabinet of Ministers. Parliament members endorsed the presidential appointment of Oleg Soskovets as minister of metallurgy and Genrikh Stroganov as chairman of the State Committee for Machine-Building. Since January, deputies have already approved thirty nominations for cabinet posts.

The parliament approved in first reading the bill on social protection of citizens who suffered from nuclear radiation following the Chernobyl power plant blast in April 1986. The bill envisages compensation and other privileges for those who were affected by the disaster, participants in the clean-up and the local inhabitants who found themselves in the radioactive contamination zone, as well as those who were evacuated from territories contaminated by radioactive fallouts.

Deputies found it necessary to do some additional work to finalize the bill in parliamentary committees and commissions and coordinate it with the governments of republics and then submit it for second reading within the next two weeks.[passage omitted]

In the afternoon, the parliament continued to discuss the draft parliamentary resolution on urgent measures to curb the spread of pornography, the cult of violence and cruelty. The resolution envisages, among other things, the setting up of a state expert commission for the moral-ethical and legal evaluation of printed matter, film, audio, video and other products having elements of pornography or of the cult of violence and cruelty in them.

In addition, it was proposed to restrict sales and advertising of products with erotic content and advise local authorities to allot special facilities for such products.

During the discussion, all speakers favoured tougher legal norms to control the spread of films, videotapes and the printed matter of "dubious content".

It was decided to continue the discussion and adopt a resolution on the matter at the next joint session of the two parliamentary chambers due to take place on Friday, April 12.

Aid Given to Chernobyl Victims

LD0904152691 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—The Soviet parliament today approved a bill on social protection for citizens who were exposed to radiation during the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster in April 1986.

Under the bill, Soviet citizens have the right to compensation for damage to their health and property as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster, to compensation and benefits for living and working on radiation-contaminated territory.

The bill will cover 4.8 million people.

The deputies decided to send the bill to parliament committees and commissions and to governments of Union republics for coordination. After that the revised draft will be put to a second reading by the parliament within two weeks.

Today deputies also examined progress in implementing the resolution of the USSR Supreme Soviet on a single programme to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster and the situation related to the accident.

First Vice Prime Minister Vitaliy Doguzhiyev said "the resolution has been fulfilled". He said that in the past year 87,900 people were evacuated from contaminated settlements in Russia, the Ukraine and Belorussia, which is more than the 29,200 people foreseen in the original plan. Medical and genetic consultations have been organised and work has been completed to set up oncological centres. Several specialised diagnostics centres have been set up.

According to Doguzhiyev, a state register of persons exposed to radiation in the Chernobyl nuclear disaster has been created, containing information on 539,000 people, including 192,000 people who took part in the clean-up operation. Deputies passed a resolution that envisages additional measures to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Privatization Bill Debated at 5 Apr Session

PM0904154091 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 91 Union Edition pp 1, 3

[Report by parliamentary correspondents A. Stepovoy, S. Chugayev from the Kremlin on USSR Supreme Soviet 5 April proceedings: "Privatization: For Money or for Free?"]

[Text] Opening the Soviet of the Union session in the morning of 5 April, chairman I. Laptev proposed to the deputies a slight change in the planned work schedule: that, instead of discussing the draft Fundamentals of Criminal Legislation, they hear a report from USSR Deputy Prime Minister V. Shcherbakov, at his request, on the draft law on the general principles for the dismantling of state ownership and privatization of enterprises. The government spokesman said, in support of his request, that he has to take part in an interrepublic conference to formulate urgent anticrisis measures.

The draft law proposed by the government, the speaker stressed, is a logical continuation of the fulfillment of the program for the transition to a market economy. In our monopolistic and specialized economy, without such a law it will not be possible to create a strong market sector. Speaking about the preparation of the draft law, V. Shcherbakov noted that the main question is how the dismantling of state ownership and privatization should take place—for money, or for free. The government has carefully studied both these options, analyzed their possible consequences, and concluded that it is necessary to combine both approaches, giving preference to payment for the transfer of property. Any USSR citizen or foreigner could take part in the process of dismantling state ownership and privatization, but the priority, V. Shcherbakov stressed, will go to labor collectives before other USSR citizens, and to all USSR citizens before citizens of other countries.

It is proposed that the main form of transfer of property from one form to the other will be leasing, with the right to purchase. The main approach will be joint-stock ownership. Joint-stock ownership, in the deputy prime minister's opinion, can help avoid possible conflicts between the center and the republics and autonomous formations when the question of ownership rights arises. As a result of the dismantling of state ownership and privatization, a considerable proportion of the country's economic potential will be accounted for by collective enterprises.

In his speech V. Shcherbakov also touched on the subject of the origin of the money buying enterprises out. He stressed that the government is categorically opposed to state property falling into the hands of the shadow economy or coming under the control of foreign companies. Therefore the draft law makes provision for Soviet citizens to declare their income in the course of the buyout process. As for foreigners, relations with them will be regulated by legislation on foreign investments in the USSR.

Deputy A. Boyko, delivering a supplementary report on behalf of parliamentary committees, reminded the session participants that the process of privatization and the dismantling of state ownership is basically beginning for the second time in our country. The first time was in 1921. Since this is the first reading of the draft law, the deputy called on his colleagues to concentrate on the conceptual problems. A. Boyko also named first and foremost among these problems the choice of the method of privatization and the dismantling of state ownership. While supporting in principle—on behalf of the commission he represents—the government's position on combining the transfer of state property for payment and free transfer, he proposed a slightly different version, in which the proportion of property transferred free is increased. He also expressed the opinion of the parliamentary committees to the effect

that the USSR state property fund that is being created should be under the jurisdiction not of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers, but of the USSR president and the Union parliament.

Answering the deputies' questions, V. Shcherbakov reported, in particular, that according to the government's calculations the population could, in the course of privatization, pay the state between 100 and 120 billion rubles [R]. Taking into account the possibility of paying by installments and other methods, it is possible in the next few years to obtain an additional R70-100 billion. He also stated categorically that the government will never agree to the proposal for the mass, free handover of state property. This, V. Shcherbakov stressed, would lead to the country's ruin. The deputy prime minister also did not agree with the proposal to place the USSR state property fund under the jurisdiction of the USSR president or Supreme Soviet. If you take it away from the government, he said, what is the point of having a government?

In the course of this year, V. Shcherbakov informed the deputies, it is proposed to carry out privatization and dismantling of state ownership of enterprises in public catering and municipal and consumer services. It will then be the turn of loss-making enterprises. In the last analysis, according to the government spokesman, the processes of dismantling state ownership and privatization will affect all sectors without exception, including defense sectors and transportation. Not only small and medium-sized enterprises, but even the biggest.

The members of the Soviet of the Union devoted all the time remaining before the recess to discussing the draft basic principles for the dismantling of state ownership and privatization of enterprises. As I. Laptev announced as he opened the debate, more than 20 people put their names down to take part.

To give away or to sell? This question was posed by virtually all the speakers. The majority did not like the concept proposed by the government, of "giving preference to payment" for the transfer of property. Deputy Ye. Kutepov, for instance, carried out a kind of sociological study on this question in his own electoral district, and it emerged that whereas workers in trade and the service sphere agree to the idea of buying out their enterprises, workers at large plants are categorically against it.

The majority of participants in the debate agreed that a proportion of state property must certainly be handed over to the working people for free; and that here the interests of people employed outside of the production sphere should also be taken into account. Various forms of transfer were proposed—credit shares, certificates. Particular attention was devoted to the formation of a USSR state property fund, as specified in the draft law.

At the end of long debates it was decided, in addition to the standard resolution on approving the draft law at its first reading and on doing further work on it, to adopt by way of protocol a list of questions that must without fail be considered during such further work. They include the need to make provision for the free transfer of a section of state property and the determination of priorities and privileges. The members of the Soviet of the Union also recommended that the USSR president submit for the examination of the country's parliament, by 1 May, a provision on the USSR state property fund.

The members of the Soviet of the Union adopted another decision too. Expressing surprise that the draft law was submitted not by the president, but by a representative of an executive body that does not have the right of legislative initiative, the deputies decided in future not to discuss documents which, under the Constitution, should only be submitted by the USSR President, if they are submitted by someone else.

All this occupied virtually the entire working day at the Soviet of the Union, and very little time was left to discuss another draft law—the fundamentals of criminal legislation of the USSR and the union republics. Even given that the report on the draft law had been delivered the day before. But after brief and fairly vigorous debates that extended the session by half an hour, the members of the Soviet union approved this document too, at its first reading. The resolution adopted on this matter is interesting because it recommends that before the second reading an expert report be carried out into all the possible criminogenic consequences of putting the draft law into practice.

In the afternoon, draft laws on the basic principles of dismantling state ownership and privatization of enterprises and on the fundamentals of criminal legislation were discussed at the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities session. After debates, the draft law on the fundamentals of criminal legislation was approved at its first reading. The draft law on privatization did not receive the necessary majority of deputies' votes. It was decided to set up a conciliatory commission, the results of whose work will, it is proposed, be heard at the next joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. This is to take place 8 April.

Resolution on Agricultural Tasks Published

PM0904154191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 91 Second Edition p 3

[Resolution signed by A. Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in Moscow on 4 April: "USSR Supreme Soviet Resolution: On the Situation in Agriculture and Urgent Measures in Preparation for Field Work"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet notes that the socioeconomic situation in agriculture has become extremely exacerbated and is assuming a critical character.

The prolonged disregard of the countryside's needs and the absence of a scientifically validated mechanism to ensure its collaboration with the city are taking their toll.

While paying lip-service to the priority of the development of the agrarian sector, many state organs centrally and locally are taking no practical steps to implement it.

In most of the country's regions the fulfillment of social programs is being disrupted, the process of degradation of the countryside is continuing, and the migration of the rural population is assuming an ominous scale. At the same time the positive experience of transforming the countryside which exists in some republics is being poorly studied and disseminated.

In conditions of an unbalanced economy and the disruption of economic ties, many industrial enterprises are taking advantage of their monopoly position to crank up prices for output supplied to the countryside, dictating crippling terms, and engaging in outright extortion and exploitation of the countryside's hopeless situation by demanding an unequal exchange in kind, thereby weakening even more the already undermined basis of the development of agricultural production.

The solution of the urgent problems of the agro-industrial complex is not finding support from many local soviets, peasants are being left to face their problems and concerns unaided, and their hopes of improving the situation are disintegrating.

As a result, gross agricultural production in 1990 fell by over 5 billion rubles [R]. Livestock and poultry numbers dropped considerably and the area sown to grain and industrial crops was reduced.

The decline in agricultural production is continuing this year, too. Purchases of livestock, poultry, and milk fell 13 percent in January-February. In comparison with the corresponding period last year, the shortfall in the supply of foodstuffs to trade was almost R2 billion.

The system of serving and supplying the countryside has collapsed. Last year's unprecedented failure in material and technical supply to the countryside has been repeated.

The shortfall in the supply of resources to the countryside is over R7 billion. Tractors and trucks alone amounted to 63,000 and 29,000 units respectively, mineral fertilizers amounted to 4,700 tonnes, and chemical plant protection agents 22,400 tonnes. Contract commitments for the supply of construction materials to farms were only 40-60 percent fulfilled.

There have been no tangible improvements in the retooling of the agricultural produce storage and processing base. Given the same production volumes this could considerably remedy the population's food supply. Around 10 percent of capital investments allocated to the agro-industrial complex are being channeled into the processing industry's needs but are not being fully utilized.

The USSR Cabinet of Ministers has already examined this year the situation developing in agriculture although the decisions that it adopted have proved ineffective.

The situation in agriculture on the eve of field work is causing great alarm. With the considerable increase in the volume of field work farms are experiencing an acute shortage of spares, soil cultivation and other equipment, polyethylene sheeting, and fuels and lubricants. One-sixth of the machine and tractor fleet has not been repaired. At the same time, contracts for the supply of tractors and vehicles to agriculture in 1991 have been concluded to a level of 65 percent at present. The situation is being greatly aggravated by the cessation of the purchase of agricultural equipment and spares from East European countries.

Long-term growth factors are being poorly developed. Political questions relating to the land reform and the formation of a mixed economy and a market infrastructure are being resolved slowly. Price, taxation, and credit policy is not aimed at developing the countryside but merely intensifies the channeling of resources into the city, which is undermining extended reproduction in the countryside.

The system of scientific support for agro-industrial production that has been created is being wrecked. Questions of financing scientific research institutions and higher educational institutions have still not been resolved.

Showing great concern and anticipating all the adverse consequences for the countryside of the situation developing in the national economy, the USSR Supreme Soviet **resolves**:

1. That the USSR Cabinet of Ministers urgently implement emergency measures comprehensively coordinated with the supreme organs of state management of the republics to ensure the organized performance of field work as the basis of the future harvest—the main precondition for improving the population's food supply—and ensure strict monitoring of its steadfast fulfillment. In so doing they are to rely to the utmost on mutual assistance and support from the republics and regions of the country.

In these conditions the most effective forms of mutually beneficial commodity exchange between the city and the countryside and mechanisms for countersupplies of equipment and other material and technical resources to the countryside must be elaborated dependent on the volumes of agricultural output sold to the state.

The conclusion of contracts connected with the fulfillment of orders for the countryside must be completed before 20 April 1991. Deliveries of tractors, trucks, soil cultivation, sowing, and other equipment, spares, polyethylene sheeting, fuels and lubricants, packaging materials, and chemical protection agents for plants and livestock must be made in full. The supply of the necessary materials, including import purchases, to enterprises producing machinery, equipment, and other means of production for the countryside must be ensured as a priority. Opportunities must be sought abroad to buy feed harvesting machinery, spares, and

plant and livestock protection agents. The question of satisfying the demand for special clothing and means to safeguard the health of agricultural workers must be resolved without delay.

Measures must be determined to increase the personal responsibility of and reinforce sanctions against leaders and collectives of enterprises which disrupt targets for the supply of material and technical resources to the countryside and the sectors serving the agro-industrial complex. It is necessary to examine the question of the producer plant's responsibility for ensuring the serviceability of its output throughout its operational life. In this connection it is necessary to elaborate and introduce the corresponding amendments to existing legislation.

So as to create the conditions to ensure material and technical supplies to peasant holdings, the production of medium- and low-capacity wheeled tractors and the production of horse-drawn agricultural implements and tools must be sharply increased this very year.

Progress in the fulfillment of the program for modernizing the agricultural produce storage and processing base is to be examined and constructive ways elaborated for clearing the backlog in the construction of processing industry facilities and providing them with the necessary production equipment and materials. The question of preserving all-union jurisdiction over defense complex enterprises engaged in the production of equipment and components for the food sectors during the period of the transition to the market must be resolved.

Additional resources must be allocated to the financing of higher educational institutions and scientific research and experimental design work in the agro-industrial complex system with a view to ensuring first and foremost the implementation of all-Union programs in the key areas of scientific and technical progress and also resolving problems of health care, improving working conditions and work safety, and ensuring the rational employment of the rural population.

2. Bearing in mind that questions of developing agriculture are virtually entirely under the jurisdiction of the republics, republic supreme soviets and kray, oblast, and rayon soviets are instructed to examine progress in field work and help agricultural enterprises and peasant holdings to resolve specific questions connected with the supply of sowing and planting materials and the repair of equipment. Effective measures are to be adopted to make maximum use of the available production potential.

Work is to be organized on the conclusion of contracts with industrial, transport, and other enterprises, institutions, and organizations on the participation of workers, employees, students, and schoolchildren in agricultural work, bearing in mind that payment for their labor must be made at the scale and on the conditions prevailing on those farms.

3. It is to be brought to the attention of the supreme soviets and governments of the republics and the USSR Cabinet of Ministers that in conditions of the worsening of the economic situation the cutting back of social programs in the countryside cannot be tolerated. It is necessary to find extra resources for increasing the construction of housing and health, cultural, and consumer facilities, increasing the provision of gas and electricity to the countryside, and the construction of roads, particularly on farms working in the worst natural and climatic conditions and to resolve the question of compensation for the rising cost of construction. To expand individual construction in the countryside it is envisaged that commercial [rynochnyy] stocks of timber and other construction materials be considerably increased.

It is deemed expedient to elaborate and implement a special program for the solution of a whole range of problems of improving culture in the countryside.

4. Local soviets of people's deputies are to establish the strictest monitoring of the practical implementation of the land reform, the creation of the material preconditions necessary for that, and the population's prompt provision with allotments for horticulture and truck farming from specially created land stocks and to use all their potential to encourage the growth of production on citizens' personal subsidiary plots and increase their commercial viability.

5. The USSR Supreme Soviet considers that development and state support in agriculture must be given to various forms of land management based on their healthy competition and resolutely condemns discrimination both against collective farms [kolkhoz] and state farms [sovkhoz]—the main producers of agricultural output—and the new peasant (private) farms and the setting of them against one another.

In this connection, the USSR Supreme Soviet stresses the need to create equal conditions for the development of all rural commodity producers.

6. The USSR Cabinet of Ministers and republic governments must examine and resolve the question of compensation for the producers of marketable agricultural output for the additional expenditure resulting from the rising cost of the means of production and of services not covered by the new purchase prices so as to create normal conditions for expanded reproduction in agriculture.

Measures are to be implemented to attract investments from industrial enterprises and organizations in agricultural production and the processing industry, to develop enterprise and cooperation in the countryside, to create small enterprises for the processing of agricultural produce, and to produce construction materials and consumer goods. Preferential terms are to be envisaged for the subsidiary activities of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, agricultural cooperatives, and peasant (private) farms

releasing them from tax on profits channeled into production and social development.

7. The USSR State Bank is to rescind the instruction on the application of higher interest rates to credits received by enterprises and organizations in the agro-industrial complex and the consumers' cooperative system before 1 November 1990. Where recalculations have been carried out excess amounts of money are to be returned to farms, enterprises, organizations, and institutions within two weeks.

8. The Federation Council is instructed to examine the question of the more precise distribution of power between the USSR and the subjects of the federation in regard to the management of the agro-industrial complex, taking into account the objective need for an interregional division of labor and the prospect for the development of integration processes in that sphere, the creation of a single food market, and where necessary submit the corresponding addenda to the draft Union Treaty.

Bearing in mind the shortage of hard currency resources in the country and the limited opportunities for agricultural enterprises to earn them as well as the need to concentrate efforts and resources on the solution of the most important problems of the development of the agro-industrial complex, it is necessary to examine the expediency of creating a single currency fund for the agro-industrial complex for the period of transition to the market.

9. The USSR Cabinet of Ministers together with the governments of the republics shall:

prepare and present to the sixth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet a long-term program for the development of the country's agro-industrial complex taking into account the proposals and comments of USSR people's deputies during the current session;

elaborate a draft law on the preferential development of the agro-industrial complex. Prepare proposals on improving the entire system of the country's agrarian legislation in connection with the redistribution of the powers of the USSR and the subjects of the federation in the sphere of the management of the agro-industrial complex and also in the light of the characteristics of the transition of this most important national economic sphere to the market;

and present by the end of the current session a report on progress in fulfilling this resolution.

[Signed] A. Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet

The Kremlin, Moscow, 4 April 1991

Political Battles in Committees Deplored

PM0904110191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 91 p 1

[I. Yakovenko report: "It Is Sad Without Opposition"]

[Text] The fierce battles in the Russian Federation Congress, the dizzying price rise, and the other impressive events of the first days of April have completely eclipsed an extremely important event that occurred 28 March in the country's Supreme Soviet. The rotation of USSR Supreme Soviet committee members took place quietly, prosaically, and in something like a family atmosphere. Cadres decide everything, as one expert said. The replacement of personnel in the country's legislative body has taken place.

Let's see who has been relieved of the duties of Supreme Soviet committee members. There are many well-known names on these lists: V. Tikhonov, N. Travkin, M. Zakharov, G. Burbulis, S. Sulakshin, V. Logunov, M. Bocharov, D. Likhachev, V. Lopatin, V. Yavorivskiy, N. Shamshev, and others.

All these people are different, but they are united by one thing at least: An unconditional striving for democratic reforms and an orientation toward decisive changes.

At the same Supreme Soviet session a desperate attempt was made to remove Yu. Ryzhov from the post of chairman of the Science and Technologies Committee. The main reproach leveled at Academician Ryzhov was the fact that he simultaneously holds the posts of parliamentary committee chairman and institute rector.

People's Deputy P. Osipov gave his assessment of this rotation at the USSR Supreme Soviet session: "I am honestly ashamed of what is happening today in this hall. This strikes me not as rotation of the Science and Technologies Committee, but as obstruction of individual deputies on account of their political views."

There is nothing bad about a political struggle going on in parliament, just as it is going on in society as a whole. The bad thing is something else—the fact that what is happening is not a political dialogue between a ruling party and an opposition, but an attempt to squeeze the opposition out of the political arena, an original way of pushing it out of the legislative structures. This happened once before in our history: on 14 June 1918 the All-Russian Central Executive Committee adopted a resolution excluding Socialist Revolutionary and Menshevik representatives from membership of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and local soviets...

Political & Social

Gorbachev Unveils 'Anti-Crisis' Measures

CM1004154091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian Second Edition 10 Apr 91

[TASS report: "Setting Arguments Aside and Tackling Practical Matters"]

[Text] Vitally important problems, the resolution of which the fate of the country and the life of all its citizens depends on, have been studied at a meeting of the Federation Council on 9 April under the chairmanship of USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. With the highest leaders of the republics and the Soviet state and government in attendance, the results of the USSR referendum, which was held on 17 March, and the progress of the fulfillment of economic agreements were discussed in detail.

Opening the meeting, Mikhail Gorbachev said: I consider it exceedingly important to talk about the present situation clearly and with complete frankness. We are talking about a danger which is looming over the country. This is a danger to our statehood, the Soviet Federation, which the majority of the population has come out in favor of preserving. It is a danger of the disintegration of the economy, with all the consequences proceeding from this for the interests of the people and the country's defense capabilities. It is a danger of the destruction of institutions of power, law and order and legality. The vital interests of every Soviet person and every family are involved.

It concerns the very foundations of our life, and this is above any views and political platforms, let alone personal preferences and group interests. I do not intend going into an analysis of the reasons for this situation now. Everything is intertwined—difficulties of the period of transition, mistakes by central, republican and local bodies, and problems which have their roots in the past.

All this is so, and we have an analysis of the reasons for this, which must be continued, drawing lessons for the future. But now we must act. Moreover, we must act without delay and not individually, but uniting all society's healthy forces, putting strife aside; act, to stop the country sliding toward catastrophe.

Proceeding from this understanding of the situation, it seems necessary to take a number of resolute steps in the near future.

First, we should take measures to preserve and renew Soviet statehood. The people expressed its will on this vitally important, crucial question at the referendum of 17 March. It came out in favor of the USSR as a renewed federation of sovereign republics, in which the rights and freedoms of a person of any nationality will be fully guaranteed. No one has been granted the right to rewrite the conclusions of the referendum, let alone ignore its results. We now had a mandate from the people to pursue a consistent firm policy to renew and strengthen the Union state in the interests of the working people on principles approved by the referendum.

Until the conclusion of the new Union treaty and the adoption of a new constitution, we have a basis for constructive work to strengthen legality and the system of government, to keep a closer eye on, and be more exacting of officials. On this basis, we must immediately cease this so-called "war of laws," which in essence is the most flagrant lawlessness.

In the near future we must put the finishing touches on the new Union treaty and then sign it. The published draft will be discussed at sessions of the Supreme Soviets of the republics and USSR Supreme Soviet, and finally agreed.

The signing of the treaty will make it legally possible to embark on the demarcation of the functions of the Union and republican bodies and thereby put an end to the current process which at times resembles seizing power for oneself and futile wrangling which leads to mistrust, suspicion and conflict between people, from which in the end society and people suffer and the whole business is slowed down.

It will make it possible to embark on completing work on the new Constitution, the draft of which will then have to be examined at the USSR Congress of People's Deputies, and subsequently, perhaps, be presented for universal examination.

Second, the vertical hierarchy of executive power from the bottom to the top should be immediately restored, and measures of legal, administrative and economic accountability should be taken regarding executive bodies and officials who do not fulfill the decisions of superior bodies on questions which lie within their competence. Here too, there should be complete clarity: Processes must not be allowed to be unleashed under the banner of democracy and sovereignty which strike at sovereignty itself, at the Union state, at democracy, which place the whole course of the transformations in doubt. In a short period of time the adoption of laws must be completed regulating the activity of the law-enforcement bodies in present conditions; the unity of their system must be preserved and the material-technical basis strengthened.

Third, taking into consideration the danger to the state of interethnic conflicts, all the sides drawn into them should be instructed to immediately cease the violence, to abrogate anticonstitutional acts and any restrictions on the rights of citizens on ethnic grounds, and to enter into talks in search of mutually acceptable political solutions. Everything that has been piled up over these years must be transcended. That is not so easy to do, but higher interests dictate precisely this logic of actions and behavior.

Fourth, until the end of the year a moratorium should be declared on strikes, meetings, and other political actions which destabilize the situation in the country.

In the economic field emergency measures will have to be taken to prevent a further fall in output and disruption of economic links. The Cabinet of Ministers has studied this and there is a coordinated decision signed by the representatives of the republics. The validity of the president's decree on this question should be extended from the second to fourth quarters of the year and, most important, the decisions should be fulfilled regarding the work of the basic industries and everything that was included in the economic agreement for the year 1991. Each republic should fulfill them, otherwise it will all turn out to be a pointless talking-shop causing people annoyance and protest. The people's mood is one of resolute opposition to such a style of conducting affairs, when we don't pay proper attention adopted decisions, organizational work or responsibility for implementation.

I consider, in particular, that decisions previously adopted by republican and local bodies, which restrict the exportation of production outside the confines of the republics, oblasts, and krays, should be abrogated within one week. If we do not do that, nothing will change. It is self-deception for someone to feel confident when he commands each tonne, gives instructions on each question of economic activity of enterprises as subjects of an all-union market. It should be put like this: Persons guilty of not fulfilling these requirements should be made strictly liable, up to and including being removed from the posts they occupy.

Taking account of the importance of supplying food to the population, a special regime is being introduced to ensure that collective and state farms, other rural commodity producers and all enterprises of the agro-industrial complex are provided with the necessary resources. At the state level, assistance to the countryside is being guaranteed by town dwellers in carrying out agricultural work, especially in gathering in the harvest. The Cabinet of Ministers should examine without delay the issue of maintaining equal relations between agriculture and industry and other sectors of the national economy in the new conditions of price setting. If they neglect this or postpone it even by a month, then whereas the collective and state farms reached the end of last year with around 58 billion rubles [R] profit, we shall end up with virtually all of them running at a loss as early as the end of the second quarter. That is the situation in connection with the changes in wholesale prices. The issue needs to be tackled immediately.

Additional incentives are being introduced for industrial, building and transport enterprises which are providing the countryside with a social infrastructure. Land reform must begin working toward next year's harvest. The necessary legislation on this point already exists both on the Union level and, as far as I know, in virtually all the republics. Local authorities and farm managers are obliged to ensure that it is implemented exactly.

Filling the market with goods remains a task of paramount importance. We have to act here proceeding from the extraordinary situation and carrying out unorthodox steps. First and foremost, we have to introduce favorable financing and taxation for all enterprises producing consumer goods. Production collectives, whatever they are involved with, must have an interest in increasing output. To supplement stocks on the market, we need to use much of what is now going toward production requirement, to put all of that onto the market and to increase goods resources by reducing exports and boosting imports.

The anti-crisis measures include putting the budget in order, pursuing a hard line aimed at reducing the state deficit, and monitoring most strictly the use made of every ruble. We cannot accept for a single day longer the way that the fulfillment of the economic agreement for this year is going as regards the budget, the tax system, the creation of stabilization and pension funds and the functioning of the banking system. With the financial chaos and antistate practices which we have faced in the first months of this year, there can be no talk of preserving and developing the unionwide market, putting our finances in order and getting out of the crisis. It is real robbery in respect of the Union budget and the country's whole financial system, and a stop will be put to it.

I will tell you directly: References to any attendant circumstances are unacceptable here. We have to implement major unionwide social programs, to support basic industries, to provide budgetary assistance to a number of republics and to finance defense, the activity of the law enforcement and state security bodies, fundamental sciences and culture.

One of the main anti-crisis measures is strengthening the ruble and bringing order to the circulation of money by regulating price setting and implementing a flexible credit policy. The main thing is that any ruble appearing on the market should be really earned. I mean developing active measures for destatification and privatization, primarily in trade and public catering, the sphere of everyday services, in relations to small and medium-size enterprises, in the development of enterprise, the demonopolization of the economy, support for small and medium-size business, the accelerated creation of commodity and financial exchanges and a transition to the convertibility of the ruble.

The creation of social guarantees and the social protection of the population area are being allotted the primary place within the system of anti-crisis measures to give the able-bodied the abillity to earn a living and, at the same time, to support disabled and socially vulnerable persons. For this purpose a draft law on the indexation of the population's income in connection with price changes will be submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet

for examination within the next month. Work on forming a system of minimum consumer budgets is nearing completion, and a Union-republic job finding service and a system of public works are being created. In conditions of the transition to the market, special concern will be shown to health care, education, science and culture.

I have listed only a small part of the proposed measures covered by the anti-crisis program. We ourselves must understand and tell people clearly that there is no single miraculous economic device which we can use to change everything. This is a whole system of interconnected political, economic, social, legal and foreign economic measures within the framework of the course we have chosen toward the transition to a market economy, a law-based state and a renewed Union—it is not a simple matter to implement. This especially in the current situation, given the disturbed state of the economic and social mechanisms.

Therefore, I am once more raising the question of the effectiveness of the functioning of the power structures; strict observance of state discipline and order, legality, and the utmost development of initiative and responsibility. In this we must also achieve understanding and cooperation, and then we will be able to halt the further development of crisis phenomena. We must attain a certain stabilization by the end of the year and create conditions to revive the economy, to improve the situation in the country, and to speed up reforms.

In conclusion I want to stress once more that the proposed anti-crisis program is an extremely difficult issue, but it meets the interests of the whole of society. In putting it forward we propose to all public forces and movements that they put political differences behind them and set aside ideological battles. In this sense I welcome calls that were heard at the recent Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Congress of People's Deputies for cooperation and mutual interaction between the center and the republic. Recently such calls have been heard with ever greater urgency at practically all forums and in all republics.

This is a thing that has been understood—it is simply an imperative of the times. The main thing now is to act, to resolve practical issues.

Specific clauses in the anti-crisis program were revealed in the speeches made by V.Kh. Doguzhiev and V.I. Shcherbakov, deputy prime ministers of the country, and V.Ye. Orlov, Union minister of finance, and V.V. Gerashchenko, chairman of USSR State Bank. Answers were given to issues relating to the various aspects of the situation in the economy and to the ways of overcoming the difficulties that have arisen.

In the debates that took place, anxiety was expressed in connection with the fact that despite the decisions that had been taken previously there has been no improvement in the economy so far and the decline in production is continuing. Various reasons for this were named: first and foremost, the break up of economic links and the discord in the activities of the authorities. Snowballing, they are paralyzing the country's national economy and causing peoples' standard of living to drop. Great harm is being caused by the continuing "war of laws." A sharp slackening of labor discipline, the wave of strikes and the obsession with meetings are one of the main reasons for the difficulties.

The trade unions, on behalf of which V.P. Shcherbakov, the chairman of the General Confederation of Soviet Trade Unions, spoke, underline the acuteness of the issues of the social protection for working people in the face of price rises. Attention was focused on the necessity of raising the level of compensation in public catering. Working collectives should play their part in this.

The presidents: I.A. Karimov of Uzbekistan; N.A. Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan; A.N. Mutalibov of Azerbaijan; R.I. Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, chairmen of Council of Minsters; V.P. Fokin of the Ukraine; and N.I. Isanov of Kyrgyzstan, spoke or the situation in the affairs of the republics, on the difficulties and the necessities they experience, and on the approaches to resolving all-Union problems.

It was decided at the sitting that the anti-crisis program will be finalized by the Cabinet of Ministers taking into account the results of the discussion, and that it will be presented to the USSR Supreme Soviet for examination.

The issue of further work on the draft of the Union treaty was discussed within the framework of the next point on the agenda. The speakers underlined that the national referendum expressed a firm verdict in favor of the preservation and reconstruction of our state. Now it is necessary to move toward the conclusion of the new treaty using this as a guideline. A proposal was put forward that the coordination should be carried out directly at the Federation Council after it has been discussed in the republican parliaments.

A.I. Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and V.S. Pavlov, the USSR prime minister, took part in the session.

Ignatenko Briefs Press on Measures

LD0904162591 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Aleksandr Kanishchev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow April 9 (TASS)—"The Soviet Federation Council, which is meeting in Moscow today, focuses on the results of the referendum, the preparation of a Union treaty and a programme of extreme measures to stabilise the socio-economic situation in the country," Soviet presidential spokesman Vitaliy Ignatenko told a news conference at the Soviet Foreign Ministry press centre here today.

According to Ignatenko, the president believes that there is a serious danger to statehood, to preserving the federation, the danger of the collapse of the economy, the danger to the institutes of power, law and order, and consequently to every member of society.

At point are the mainstays of our life, which are above political views, platforms, not to mention group ambitions and personal prejudices.

The president believes that the reasons behind this are mistakes by central authorities as well as republics and local governing bodies.

Nobody shuns the analysis of the causes. But today we should act together rather than single-handed, uniting all wholesome segments of society to prevent the country from sliding down to catastrophe, the president believes.

Ignatenko said that at the Federation Council meeting the president advanced proposals covering a wide range of problems.

Specifically, Gorbachev proposes that the most decisive measures be taken to maintain and renew the Soviet statehood. He believes the Federation Council has a mandate for implementing a firm and consistent policy in the interests of the working people, for renewing and strengthening the concept that was approved during the referendum.

But the president thinks that the war of laws, which represents lawlessness, must be immediately ended and the union treaty be signed as soon as possible. This treaty will make it possible to begin delineating the powers of republics and the centre and will thus put an end to the process which generates mistrust and suspicion.

Gorbachev proposes that the vertical structure of subordination from down to top be restored immediately, that measures be taken against persons and organisations for failure to fulfill decisions by higher bodies. At point is the crisis of executive power.

Gorbachev believes that the adoption of laws regulating the activity of law enforcement bodies be concluded within a short time-frame.

Mindful of the peril of ethnic conflicts, Gorbachev proposes that all parties involved in them end violence immediately, rescind all acts restricting citizens' rights and enter negotiations in the quest for mutually acceptable political solutions.

The president also proposes that a moratorium be declared on all strikes, rallies, demonstrations and other political actions which can destabilise the situation in the country.

In the economic field, the president proposes to adopt a whole package of measures to prevent a downturn in production and the rupture of economic ties.

Responding to questions from correspondents, Ignatenko specified that the president "welcomed calls for cooperation and interaction between the centre and republics, which were made at the recent Congress of Russian People's Deputies." Gorbachev took into acount the proposals for pulling the country out of the economic crisis, which were made by the Russian parliament and Russian people's deputies.

Ignatenko said the full cabinet of ministers, presidents of Union republics and about 70 invited people were present at the meeting of the Federation Council. Among those absent are Chairman of the Russian parliament Boris Yeltsin, who is on vacation now (his first deputy Ruslan Khasbulatov represents Russia at the meeting), and Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdiya, who alludes to the complex situation in the republic.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis and Estonian president Arnold Ruutel deemed their presence at the meeting as inexpedient. Chairman of the Latvian parliament Anatoliy Gorbunovs and Moldovan President Mircha Snegur are absent due to illness.

Kirghiz Leader on Meeting

LD0904203291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Apr 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Here is what our correspondent was told by people who attended the sitting of the Federation Council. [Video shows Kirghiz President A.A. Akayev being interviewed by correspondent Vladimir Stefanov].

[Akayev] The sitting of the Federation Council today considered two exceptionally important and interconnected questions. The first concerns the implementation of the economic agreement for 1991, and the second question is the prospects for the conclusion of a new union treaty. Well, why are they interconnected? Today, in fact, both Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and all members of the Federation Council spoke with great concern about the unsatisfactory fulfillment of the economic agreement for this year, and in this situation, of course, speeding up the conclusion of a union treaty would be tremendously important. After all, the preconditions are all there. There has been a referendum, which showed that many republics really do firmly and decisively intend to conclude a new Union treaty. It seems that it would probably be right for those republics to speed up the signing of a new Union treaty and to really create, I would say, special conditions for those republics that will accept and will sign the Union treaty—a special favor that would show the economic and political benefit of the conclusion of a new treaty.

Aide Denies Gorbachev To Resign as Party Leader

LD1004141191 Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 10 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—A Soviet president's aide today denied rumours that Mikhail Gorbachev was going to step down as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee at the next party plenary meeting.

At a briefing in Moscow, Georgiy Shakhnazarov said that "it's the first I've heard of the rumour." At the same time, he said that "one cannot rule out that the general secretary will be asked to make a report at the plenum. But I have no information on that score."

Plan To Oust Gorbachev Rumored

PM0904195391 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 10 Apr 91 p 2

[IAN report: "Threat to Gorbachev Again"]

[Text] Since the end of last week rumors have been spreading among RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] people's deputies and members of the republic Supreme Soviet about the preparation of a CPSU Central Committee plenum at which conservative forces want to demand the resignation of CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev from his post as Communist Party leader.

Meanwhile deputies from the "Democratic Russia" bloc maintain that Ivan Polozkov, leader of the Russian Communist Party, is under attack from orthodox communists because of his "insufficient firmness."

Soyuz Call for Extraordinary Congress Viewed

PM1004102391 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 91 p 1

[Correspondent S. Sokolov report: "'Soyuz' Does Not Trust the President; Nor the Democrats 'Soyuz'"]

[Text] Deputy Yu. Blokhin reported at the Monday session of the Union parliament that members of the presidium of the "Soyuz" deputies group had met with M. Gorbachev and discussed the question of the need to convene an extraordinary Congress of USSR People's Deputies. The meeting was held on the president's initiative. The idea of an extraordinary congress comes from "Soyuz." According to Ye. Kogan, a member of the "Soyuz" presidium, at the congress it is proposed to raise the question of a report from M. Gorbachev. You recall that an attempt to remove B. Yeltsin at the Russian congress was also arrayed in such a neutral formula recently. Is it M. Gorbachev's turn now?...

Our correspondent S. Sokolov reports from the Kremlin:

"Many people are shouting now that we intend to demand the president's resignation," Ye. Kogan declared in conversation with me. "But that it is not quite correct. We are insisting on a report. But usually conclusions are always drawn later..."

Ye. Kim, a member of the group's presidium, told me:

"The 'Soyuz' group has not made any decision to collect signatures. This is a private initiative of Deputy Kogan and several of his colleagues."

A closed meeting of the "Soyuz" group's parliamentary faction was held yesterday evening. Ye. Kim told me that the proposal to convene an extraordinary congress was not supported by a majority. It was decided to instruct the USSR Supreme Soviet to hear the president's report at one of its sittings. True, a vote was not taken on this question—from which it is possible to conclude that it is too early to speak of a final decision...

Here Are the Thoughts on This of...

Vladimir Lysenko, chairman of the Consultative Council of the Democratic Congress:

"The desire of the 'Soyuz' group to raise the question of a report by USSR President M. Gorbachev at the Congress of USSR People's Deputies is akin to the analogous attempt by the 'Communists of Russia' to remove B. Yeltsin. I believe that, for all the criticism of Gorbachev and the inconsistency of his actions, the presence of Gorbachev and Yeltsin in the political arena is a stabilizing factor for the country.

"I regard as more productive the idea of a 'roundtable' with the participation of representatives of authority and various political forces and movements. We would like to see M. Gorbachev at this 'table' too."

Arkadiy Murashev, secretary of the Interregional Deputies Group:

"I believe that it is pointless to convene the Congress of USSR People's Deputies now. As far as I know, the same opinion is held by the majority of members of the the Interregional deputies group's legislative faction... If 'Soyuz' still succeeds in convening the congress and raising there the question of confidence in the president, then I and many of my confederates in the democratic movement will also vote against Gorbachev. But for quite different reasons from those of the 'Soyuz' members. We see Gorbachev's resignation as a precondition for dismantling the unitary power structures, whereas 'Soyuz' is reckoning on strengthening them."

Sergey Odarich, deputy leader of the "Rukh" secretariat (the Ukraine):

"I cannot express 'Rukh's' official viewpoint. We have not yet adopted a statement on the question, but this is something for the next week. It is obvious that the Union Government and the president do not control the situation in the country and are resorting increasingly frequently to the use of military force. But in the event of the president's resignation there is a danger that a coalition of right-wing forces will accede to power instead of Gorbachev..."

Soyuz Group 'Displeased' With Gorbachev Talks

LD0904232191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2050 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] We have received information from the (?Russian) news agency today that USSR President Gorbachev met with the Soyuz deputies group in the Supreme Soviet of the country yesterday.

[Words indistinct] was underlined at a news conference by Vitaliy Ignatenko. According to his words, a thorough discussion took place during which the issue of the Union treaty was discussed as well as pressing measures to stabilize the political and economic situation in the country.

Contrary to unofficial information that is being spread that the Soyuz group is collecting signatures to call an extraordinary USSR Congress of People's Deputies, where it intends to demand an account from Mikhail Gorbachev and to raise the question of his removal from the post of president, the question of his resignation was not discussed at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Russian news agency has learned from one of the leaders of the parliamentary faction Soyuz that mutual understanding was not reached and that the deputies were left displeased with the results of their meeting with the president.

TASS Reviews Soviet Central Press for 10 Apr

LD1004063891 Moscow TASS in English 0619 GMT 10 Apr 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—The Soviet parliament on Tuesday continued forming the USSR Cabinet of Ministers, passed the first reading of a social security bill for the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster victims and discussed a resolution on measures to curb the propaganda of pornography and violence, today's newspapers report.

PRAVDA publishes the USSR law "On the List of Ministries and Other Central State Governing Bodies in the USSR" and a parliamentary resolution on the enforcement of the bill.

The Federation Council met on Tuesday to discuss Soviet economic woes, newspapers report.

On the completion of his official visit to Japan, President Mikhail Gorbachev will make a stopover on Chejudo Island, South Korea, on April 19 to meet South Korean President No Tae-u, PRAVDA reports.

In the run up to Vladimir Lenin's 121st birth anniversary PRAVDA publishes readers' letters about the founder of the Soviet state.

"Lenin belongs to the 20th century and his ideas permeate our future. Our painful past can be viewed differently, but it is absolutely clear that human history would be inconceivable without Lenin," PRAVDA writes.

Newspapers run several stories marking the 30th anniversary of the first manned space flight.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an interview with Director General of the Russian Association of Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives Nikolay Popov who comments on the future of the Soviet farmers.

SELSKAYA ZHIZN carries an interview with Rostselmash Director General Yuriy Peskov, who speaks about the Soviet agricultural machine-building industry.

Several newspapers comment on the new draft Union treaty. Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba comments in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on his republic's plans to sign the new Union treaty.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA interviews Deputy Chairman of the Spiritual Department of Muslims in Central Asia and Kazakhstan Kazi Zakhidzhan.

There are now some 400 mosques in Uzbekistan, compared to just 85 in 1989, Zakhidzhan said.

Military commanders no longer prevent Muslims, serving in the Armed Forces, from performing religious rites, he said.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries an interview with first deputy chairman of the Soviet parliament Commission on the Budget, Plan and Finances Aleksandr Orlov, who comments on Soviet budgetary problems.

The Council of the Soviet Confederation of Trade Unions holds a plenum today to discuss trade union tactics under current social and economic conditions. TRUD publishes statements by council members on the eve of the plenum.

TRUD carries an interview with Nikolay Karnaukh, chairman of the Soyuzmetal trade union centre. Soviet metal workers are losing their patience, he said.

Newspapers cover Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh's visit to Yugoslavia, comment on the situation in Albania, local elections in Japan and report developments in Bulgaria.

Analyst Tomas Kolesnichenko writes in PRAVDA about South Korea's economic success.

New Gorbachev Adviser Interviewed

PM1004100791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 91 p 1

[Interview with V.I. Karasev, new adviser to the USSR president for links with state and public organizations, by A. Korzun; place and date not given; first two

paragraphs are introduction: "President's New Adviser: We Will Come Through. Without 1917 and 1937"]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev's team has gotten a new member. Valentin Ivanovich Karasev has been appointed adviser to the USSR president for links with state and public organizations.

(KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA information: V.I. Karasev was born in 1952, is Russian, a member of the CPSU, and a candidate of historical sciences, worked as head of the department of history of the CPSU and scientific communism at the industrial institute in the city of Kramatorsk, and is a member of a USSR Supreme Soviet committee. He is married with two daughters).

[Korzun] Valentin Ivanovich, you actively advocated the removal of Article 6 of the USSR Constitution, are a member of the Interregional Deputies Group, and at the same time are a member of the CPSU...

[Karasev] I am a Communist, and I do not hide the fact. A communist by conviction, but not a supporter of the partyocracy.

I like very much the idea of building a civil society, the idea of legilative parties. This is precisely the force which, according to Marx, incidentally, holds the state together, and not vice versa.

As regards the Interregional Deputies Group, I joined it when the principles of uniting deputies with different political convictions were proclaimed. The situation has changed now—certain members of the group do, unfortunately, impose their own ideas on the rest.

[Korzun] Will you deal with all parties and organizations identically?

[Karasev] Unfortunately, movements which proclaim democratic aims are beginning to use methods of tough ideological pressure. During the election campaign, although I was head of the department of history of the CPSU and scientific communism, the old partyocracy pressured me. But now, if a person expresses views which differ from "fashionable" ones, he is set upon with equal ferocity by a new pack which at times is still more terrible than the former apparatus one.

[Korzun] Let us return to Article 6 and the multiparty system...

[Karasev] During the election meetings voters would ask me my attitude to the multiparty system. I honestly replied that it was positive. The trouble with the majority of parties today is that they express the interests of just one social stratum. Sometimes they are distinguished only by the leaders' personal disagreements. I see it as my task now to find things in common that would unite all parties—in the interests of collective farm members and private farmers, workers and new businessmen.

I took an active part in the removal of Article 6 and advocated the CPSU's equality with other parties, but today I acknowledge that we were hasty. The new management structure had not been elaborated, and the old one was totally permeated with the party leadership. When the party was moved aside from power, as it were, it was discovered that many niches of this power had been laid bare.

It is easy now to discard any leader, and they are trying to do this to Gorbachev. But it is important to realize that forces headed in different directions want one and the same thing—extremes are beginning to come together. Gorbachev is keeping to a line which a whole number of historical figures failed to keep to—Aleksandr Fedorovich Kerenskiy, for example. He was unable to keep a hold on the situation and took fright. But then, in 1917, as soon as the leader capable of controlling the situation went, polar forces—monarchists and Bolsheviks—at once became active in politics. Today Gorbachev is being criticized for wavering between "left-wingers" and "right-wingers." But these accusations are unfair. The operational situation in the country is changing, and the president's tactics are changing. Tactics but not strategy.

[Korzun] If Gorbachev resigns, who will accede to power?

[Karasev] If "the street," rallies, and the miners prove stronger, this means that a neo-Bolshevik will accede. If the apparatchiks are stronger, then someone will accede who will take us back to 1984.

In conclusion I would like to wish all people a little more optimism: We will come through. Maybe just a little worse, but without 1937. Maybe just a little longer, but without 1917.

Shevardnadze: Dictatorship Warning 'Well Founded'

AU0904153791 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA (GAZETA SWIATECZNA EDITION) in Polish 6-7 Apr 91 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, former Soviet Foreign Minister, by GAZETA WYBORCZA correspondent Adam Michnik; in Moscow, on March 28 1991: "My Conscience is Clear"]

[Excerpts] [Michnik] Are the current events that we are witnessing in the Soviet Union likely to pose a threat to Poland? If so, what kind of threat?

[Shevardnadze] The situation in the USSR is very unstable. If it cannot be stabilized, if the tension continues to rise, and if chaos sets in—regrettably, this is a real possibility—it will also pose a threat to your country. It will be a threat to the whole of Europe and the world. An unstable Soviet Union poses the highest danger. It is in the world's interest that the situation in the Soviet Union should stabilize.

[Michnik] Is the current conflict around the Soviet troop pullout from Poland a result of this instability, or is it a signal of a new line in foreign policy? Mikhail Gorbachev promised Tadeusz Mazowiecki that Soviet troops would be pulled out by the end of 1991. Today there is talk of the end of 1994. What are we to think about this?

[Shevardnadze] I would not make too much of a problem around the issue of Soviet troop pullout from Poland, in the same way as we have done with the troop pullout from Hungary, which was done as soon as possible. It is in the Soviet Union's interest to pull out troops from Germany. I believe that you should also be in favor of this, because—in my opinion—it also lies in Poland's interest.

[Michnik] Was this a conflict on the military level?

[Shevardnadze] No. We wanted to approach the issue of troops in Poland in the same way as we did in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. I saw no point in maintaining our troops beyond our borders. This only complicates our mutual relations. I still believe this is true.

[Michnik] What made you resign from the post of foreign affairs minister?

[Shevardnadze] It is difficult to add anything new to what I said in the past. The threat from reactionary forces and part of the conservatives was serious and the attacks on the ministry and our foreign policy were so brazen, brutal, and aggressive, that I felt I had to resign. I also believed that it was essential to call on the democrats to rally against the threat of dictatorship, totalitarianism, and to defend perestroyka, our new thinking, and our new foreign policy. Of course, one does not make such a decision on the spur of the moment, or when carried away by emotion. I hoped that my decision would help defend democracy. Today, we see that the democratic movement is consolidating, organizing, and strengthening. [passage omitted]

[Michnik] You have warned against the danger of dictatorship. Today I see the following: Parliamentarians in the Kremlin, around them there is a cordon of militia, and beyond this cordon there are the electors. Are you not worried by the fact that Mikhail Gorbachev—who did so much for democracy in this country—is now going in the opposite direction?

[Shevardnadze] I feel this very deeply and I am shocked. I cannot foresee the consequences. One cannot accept the fact that the pioneers of perestroyka have resorted to such methods. Our society is torn apart by serious contradictions that complicate social and political processes. However, the real tragedy is the fact that the dialogue has vanished. Without dialogue, it will be impossible to solve the contradictions.

We could have gone about it a different way. One could have established dialogue with the leaders of the demonstrations. One could have talked with the people who came to protest. Maybe there is evidence that somebody is trying to seize power, but I have no such information.

The present situation only confirms that my warnings against the dangers of dictatorship were well founded. This situation of confrontation can only lead to chaos and anarchy. If that happens, we will not have long to wait for a dictator to appear on the scene. It is not important from which quarter he may come, namely, whether he comes from the left or right. I cannot provide you with any names, but chaos and anarchy will produce a dictator.

I believe that we will not descend into anarchy, chaos, and disorder. Such a situation would almost certainly lead to a dictatorship of some kind. It is not too late for a dialogue between Yeltsin and Gorbachev. We managed to reach an understanding with the Americans. We began the dialogue with Reagan. Admittedly, it was a "class" dialogue, but already in 1985 we had initiated a normal human dialogue. Why cannot two people who come from the same nation reach some kind of understanding? Both are Russians. What is needed is the will to break through the external contradictions and to initiate a dialogue on the general human level. A lot depends on the stability of the USSR. Tomorrow, new issues and matters will have to be tackled, but today the establishment of dialogue is the most important item. The Army convoys on the streets, all this weaponry and soldiers, is all very frightening. That this should be happening in the sixth year of perestroyka. I simply cannot understand it. One cannot talk to people like this.

[Michnik] Your career is particularly interesting. At various times you have been a very high party and state official, the First Secretary of the Georgian Communist Party, and the head of the KGB....

[Shevardnadze] No, not of the KGB. I was head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a very important difference.

[Michnik] You were an influential supporter of the old system. Today your name is linked to the peaceful orientation of Soviet foreign policy and to the categorical option for internal democratization. Now, you are no longer a minister. How do you intend to take your ideals further?

[Shevardnadze] It is undoubtedly a stroke of luck for me that I have passed through all the stages on the career ladder. I know how we should not be living. I am familiar with all the faults of our society. The most difficult thing is the internal struggle within oneself. Sometimes, this struggle is so overpowering that one cannot sleep nights. It is more difficult than a fight with an external foe, because this sometimes brings satisfaction. I am 63 years old and from childhood I have had to confront these internal struggles within myself. I have become a convinced democrat, although at the age of eight—and I have talked about it publicly—I wrote a poem in honor of Stalin. In the future, my views will no doubt alter, but they will certainly not pose any threat to democracy.

[Michnik] How are you coping with your new reality? For the first time in many years you do not hold any official or state office. Do you intend to write your memoirs?

[Shevardnadze] When I was preparing myself to make my decision I suspected that afterwards things would be much worse and difficult. Things have, however, been made easier by the fact that I feel that I have a moral satisfaction. I have a completely clear conscience in relation to my people and—I think that I can use the big word here—the world. I remained honest in relation to the partners with whom I had negotiated. Today, I am still able to do something useful. One does not have to be minister to do this. I shall always work in the cause of peace and democracy. I shall travel, talk, and lecture—I have received thousands of invitations—as long as my health holds out, because I still have lots of energy left.

I shall defend the new political thinking. I shall try to develop it and I may even be able to add something more to it. One can also do a lot towards the creation of a new relationship between the USSR and Poland. It is not just ministers, premiers, or even presidents who make policy. Ordinary people can also make policy.

[Michnik] What do you think of the nationalisms that are emerging in all the Soviet republics, including Russia. Nationalism has many faces, some good and some bad.

[Shevardnadze] Every viewpoint has its negative side. I do not see anything wrong in the phenomenon of nationalism, but there is also the primitive, extremist, almost a criminal type of nationalism. We cannot turn a blind eye to this. It is likely to happen when somebody begins to claim that his own nation is special and exceptional compared to others and because of this contention that other nations should be subservient and serve his nation.

New people have surfaced on the wave of nationalist rebirth in various republics. These people are still ruled by their emotions and it will take some time before they start thinking in terms of policies that do not just tackle the problems of the day, but think about what the results of such a policy are likely to be in say, 10 years' time. Will all that they are doing today bring a dividend in the future?

Integration processes are bound to develop more fully. This is an incontrovertible historical truth. Self-isolation leads to destruction. People will learn from their experiences and they will begin to understand this fact. Time will heal the presently understandable suspicions. People still remember the painful experiences. In time, this bad and negative baggage will be shed and we shall be able to build completely new relationships.

[Michnik] How much time is needed to rebuild a new relationship between Poland and the Soviet Union?

[Shevardnadze] If we can free ourselves from the baggage of the past we will succeed in rebuilding our relations. This does not mean that we must forget the past, or our history. It is imperative that—despite our historical memory—the past must not be allowed to determine our present relations. These have to be crafted with the future in mind. To achieve this we need time.

[Michnik] Than you very much for the interview.

Gorbachev, Yeltsin Share 'Common Destiny'

PM0904143291 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 12, 24-31 Mar 91 p 3

[Deputy chief editor Stepan Kiselev article: "Siamese Twins"]

[Text] Having exchanged heavy-weight blows in late February and early March, Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev made it clear that the two "sworn friends" find this country too small for their rival ambitions. Now that all possible ways to reconciliation have been cut off, what next?

During his trip to America in Autumn 1989, Boris Yeltsin predicted an early collapse of the Soviet system, allowing his chief opponent, Mikhail Gorbachev, "a year, or 18 months at best". His prophesy is threatening to come true. Having failed to stop the escalation of violence in the Republics and economic decay, Gorbachev has found himself in a situation where both the right- and the left-wing forces are demanding his resignation.

His situation is aggravated further by the fact that Western public opinion has gradually recovered from Gorbimania and realized that there are other politicians acting on the Soviet scene, too. The Bloody Sunday in Vilnius and the awkward pretentions at peacemaking at other people's expense in solving the Gulf crisis dealt a painful blow to the Soviet President's international reputation, making him more vulnerable than ever.

The only thing Yeltsin was unable to predict in 1989 was his own transformation into the head of the Russian parliament instead of a free wheeling politician unburdened with power. He could not know that by the time the catastrophe he had predicted became imminent he would be in its epicentre. Which means that both the Union President and the chairman of the Russian parliament might be buried under the rubble of our disintegrating country. Chained together by the political crisis and pursuing the same goal of overcoming it at the rival's expense, Gorbachev and Yeltsin share a common destiny, like Siamese twins.

What did they count upon when they called on their supporters "to leave the trenches" and "go on the offensive"? In all probability they thought the opposing party, upset by the other's war cries, would make a fool of oneself. The calculations proved right.

In one of his latest public addresses Gorbachev fiercely attacked "the so-called democrats" and thus severed his last ties with the liberal intelligentsia and the nationwide democratic movement.

Yeltsin, in turn, began looking for "betrayers of democracy" with whom there "can be no compromise". By so doing he scared some of his supporters and waverers with the prospect of a new witch-hunt. He then declared that, contrary to the Centre's allegations, his first deputy Khasbulatov had not signed the draft Union Treaty. It was a serious lapse because just for once the Centre's information was correct. Which is not always the case with the central media controlled by the presidential party. Having unleashed a demagogical campaign against Yeltsin, it has once again demonstrated the Bolsheviks' "brilliant insanity" by getting into the same old trap: the more they abused Yeltsin, the higher his popularity.

In short, the opponents played on each other's weaknesses and suffered comparable losses. This increasingly dangerous game under the common slogan of "responsibility for the fate of the people" caused nothing but exasperation. The rivals seemed to have abandoned all moral constraints as the day of reckoning—the nationwide March 17 referendum—drew nearer.

There will be no winners in the struggle. Today we are a nation defying all laws. Georgia, Moldova, Armenia and the Baltic Republics have boycotted the nationwide referendum. The Smolensk and Ryazan regions, the Stavropol Territory and several autonomous republics rebelled against Russia's referendum on the question of presidency. The Republics acted as Yeltsin's allies, the regions acted with the President's tacit approval. Playing up the rebellious moods in order to defeat the opponent, the two politicians have been digging their own graves.

Today, Smolensk and Stavropol are rebelling against Yeltsin. Tomorrow they might turn against the President and make him a hostage of their interests. The boycott of the Russian referendum was a rehearsal for the national salvation committees which might choose to topple Gorbachev as soon as he oversteps the bounds of authority allowed him by the provincial party bosses.

With the loss of Gorbachev, who is still keeping the reactionary party nomenklatura in check by drawing the bulk of their critical fire, Yeltsin will have to stand up against the well-organized and highly-powered communist force alone, with nothing to oppose it with.

Playing up the separatist tendencies in the Union Republics with a view to weakening his rival, Yeltsin is planting a time-bomb under his own chair. The national conflicts that have undermined Gorbachev's power may soon flare up inside Russia. Then Tatarstan or North Ossetia may one day become hotbeds of unrest like today's Georgia or Lithuania. And that may wake up a terrible beast—Russian nationalism—which would not go back to its lair until it tears the whole country apart.

Gorbachev Appoints Three New Ministers

PM1004101591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 91 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] The following have been appointed by decrees issued by USSR President M. Gorbachev:

Igor Nikolayevich Denisov as USSR minister of health;

Salambek Naibovich Khodzhiyev as USSR minister of the chemical and petroleum refining industry;

and Oleg Grigoryevich Anfimov as USSR minister of the electrical equipment industry and instrument-making.

'Vzglyad' Program Operating 'Underground'

PM1004083191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 April 91 p 1

[S. Bartnikas report: "Underground 'Vzglyad' Operating; TSN (Television News Service) Next?"]

[Text] The first underground edition of the "Vzglyad" program has gone out. It was shot with an amateur videocamera, and the usual studio was replaced by the kitchen in Aleksandr Politkovskiy's home. Its topics were the 28 March Moscow rally, the Kuril islands, Kalugin's suit against Ryzhkov, Major Pustobayev's life after the letter to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, a foreign prostitute...

"As before we have been deprived of airtime and an audience of 120-150 million people has been deprived of us. L.P. Kravchenko's position remains unchanged, therefore we had no option but to go underground and continue making the broadcast under our own steam," Aleksandr Politkovskiy recounts. "The first edition of 'Vzglyad' from the 'underground' was made in a week and is presented by me and Sasha Lyubimov. At present I go on television at night and make cassettes of the broadcast. Doing this is very complex, because Kravchenko has set up a new service to supervise control rooms. Nevertheless it has been possible to duplicate 'Vzglyad' from the 'underground' and it has already been bought by Omsk, Chelyabinsk, Volgograd, and Lithuania. Those wishing to obtain an underground 'Vzglyad' can telephone 283-40-86. The price is agreed: Who will pay what. Unfortunately we will not be able to satisfy requests from private individuals."

TV Said 'To Revive' Broadcasts

91P50152 Minsk ZNAMYA YUNOSTI in Russian 27 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report from Moscow under the rubric: "Have You Heard?"]

[Text] Deputy Chairman of the All-Union State Television and Radio Company Valentin Lazutkin reports that Central Television is planning to revive broadcasts of the

"Vzglyad" program in April. As we know, it was taken off the air at the end of last year when the "Vzglyad" directors invited E. Shevardnadze, who had just resigned from his position as Minister of Foreign Affairs, to appear on one of its segments. According to V. Lazutkin, the new "Vzglyad" will differ significantly from the old one in both form and content. Aleksandr Lyubimov will be the program's director.

'Outspoken' Television Newscasters Suspended

PM0904145291 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 12, 24-31 Mar 91 p 7

[Yelena Chekalova report: "The New Generation Chooses..."]

[Text] On March 15, the evening airing of the TSN news programme was pulled off the air. On March 16, instead of the popular anchorwoman Tatyana Mitkova, TV viewers saw one Sergey Goryachev whose version of the programme resembled an entertainment show. Yuriy Rostov, a former TSN anchor, comments on the situation.

"After TSN's noon issue on March 15, which was hosted by Dmitriy Kiselev, TSN producer Vitaliy Tishkin was summoned to the Information Department chief of Central Television, Olvar Kakuchaya, who announced that the three permanent hosts of TSN—Tatanya Mitkova, Dmitriy Kiselev and I—were suspended from their jobs. When asked why, Kakuchaya answered evasively: they did not suit the TV leadership. Nor did he specify for how long the suspension would last. The feeling is they will hardly appear on the screen again, particularly in live broadcastings."

On March 16, the TV management was hastily looking for substitutes. Proposals were mostly addressed to the young staff—probably in a bid to preserve a least the programme's outward look. Many refused. The first to agree was Sergey Goryachev, who previously worked as a foreign correspondent for the national TV news programme, Vremya. This is how he explains his decision:

"First, I didn't think I had the right to refuse. I'm on the staff, and if I'm told to do something, I have to obey. Second, I'm not clear on what has happened with TSN. But as a rank-and-file viewer, I think that Mitkova, Kiselev and Rostov weren't quite right. To some extent, they themselves are to blame for the demise of their programme. They were too outspoken and made no secret of their positions. Even in its outer appearance, TSN contrasted sharply with Vremya. It's clear to everybody that there's no return to the former TSN. One has to be wiser and behave more respectably."

"How do you feel in this situation?"

"Of course, there's an unpleasant aftertase. It was because of the TV leadership tht I've found myself in such an awkward situation. But one thing is certain: I've never done anything against my conscience. All I want is to do my job professionally, which, in my view, means to keep the programme going, make it more balanced and have a keen feeling of the situation."

One other person working on Goryachev's team is a young and no less optimistic Irina Mishina. Her nomination also came as a surprise. One might think that the new leadership of the state TV company would try to find support among the conservative old guard. But this is not the case. In the wake of a boycott staged by the Union of Soviet Cinema Workers against Central Television, the producer of a film review programme, Kinopanorama, Irina Lisnevskaya—an old-timer on television—has removed her programme off the air. But the gap was promptly filled in with an "X" programme (an alternative to Kinopanaorma) and its 25-yeard-old host Aleksandr Oleynikov, who until then had worked for the advertisement department making video clips.

Some may remember the renounced Aleksey Kapler who had been a host of Kinopanorama. New people come today, bringing with them a new culture. Says Aleksandr Oleynikov: "I don't care about politics. I've travelled far and wide, worked in West Germany for some time. I just want to be a professional so that TV viewers could just relax and enjoy what they watch." As a popular buzz phrase goes, the new generation chooses Pepsi! It seems it really does.

True, there is one argument against that. In a recent documentary "Confrontation" (shown on TV with two repeats) about the January events in Lithuania, a young journalist, Stepan Ambartsumyan, tried to bring home to us that those who had resumed work at the Vilnius TV centre were not scabs, but professionals. However, he's omitted one important detail: for these people to start performing their professional duty, more than a dozen people were killed.

'Political Censorship' Imposed on Army Paper

PM0904142891 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 12, 24-31 March 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Khabarovsk: Farewell to Glasnost"]

[Text] "A. Donetskiy carried out political censorship"—similar headlines now regularly decorate the front page of the tabloid SOVETSKIY VOIN.

What made Colonel Anatoliy Donetskiy, chief of the army formation's military-political department, act so army-like in overstepping the Law of the USSR "On the Press and Other Mass Media" by introducing not merely censorship (incidentally, prohibted by Article 1 of the Law) but political censorship? A formal pretext was offered in articles by RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] people's deputies Colonel-General Volkogonov and Colonel Rutskiy, reprinted from MOSCOW NEWS and ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, and a short item by a reader of the tabloid, Junior Sergeant Platonov, all of whom censured the army's actions

during the "Bloody Sunday" in Lithuania with the use of weapons and tanks, entailing loss of human life. The tabloid also featured a questionnaire containing, among others, the following questions: "Do you favour banishing political parties from the army?" and "Should the army take part in settling internal conflicts, including ethnic ones?" The colonel strictly banned the publication of replies from readers and the finding of the opinion poll, forgetting that under the Law on the Press the editors were independent in their professional activities.

The troubles for Konstantin Stulov, the editor, did not end there. His regular higher military rank was delayed and it was transparently hinted that it was time for him to say good-bye to his post of editor as well.

Committee Head Views Power of Soviets

PM0904145491 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 12, 24-31 Mar 91 p 9

[Article by Sergey Alekseyev, Chairman of the Constitutional Oversight Committee: "All Power to...Nobody!"]

[Text] People think that the slogan "All Power to the Soviets!" means popular power. In reality, the two notions are miles apart.

We don't see the difference, if only because the slogan of the 1917 Revolution has been transformed into the power of the Communist Party. It would seek that this power should be transferred to the elective representative bodies in order for the people to become masters of their destinies. Yet even if the power were in the hands of the Soviets, or councils, the regime would still be totalitarian, whatever the historical conditions and the personal qualities of the specific people yielding this power, because all power concentrated in any single body is the quickest path to totalitarianism.

The rest of the world has reached the heights of democracy by the division of power into legislative, executive and judicial. All branches of power are equal there. We have just embarked on this way, and the greatest difficulty here is to make the people understand that all power in the hands of the Soviets is bad, not good. We should tread carefully, because for many generations of Soviet people the power of the Soviets was popular power. Even many MPs, whose legislative activities should be directed to attaining the division of power, believe that being elected representatives of the people they have the right to have a hand in everything from day-to-day affairs to the activities of the courts.

One reason why the Soviets have little, if any, power is that they combine the functions of state and local government. The Constitution says that the Soviets form a single system, that they are bodies of state authority and thus have all power in their hands. As a result, we have hundreds of small parliaments, actively engaged in the "wars of laws and sovereignties" yet paying little attention to daily affairs, the real aim of all local governments. As long as we don't delineate the state and the local governments, they will always compete among themselves, driving society into a horrific state of lawlessness.

But I wouldn't advocate the dismantling of the Soviets. The task at hand is to reach them the attainments of global civilization. Personally, I question the expediency of local Soviets, but they may have a role to play in a city or town. What about regional Soviets? Are they regional parliaments or governments? All towns and cities are run by local governments. So where do the regional Soviets come in? Isn't a council of all local mayors much better?

In effecting a reform of the power setup we should remember that the nation needs a strong executive authority. All controversies over the presidency boil down to the President's relationship with the parliament. It is important to prevent the transformation of a strong presidency into absolutism by having parallel—and equally strong—legislative and judicial powers. The presidency can only be efficient if it has sufficient authority. The President's rulings should be carried out. Of course, they should be realistic and democratic too. To make them efficient, the President should have local representatives, governors or prefects, whatever the name. The state authority should not replace the local government. The ideal setup would be: the lower level—mayors; the regional level—the President's representatives and councils of mayors; and the highest level—the state itself.

The model of the Soviets seemed workable until it was tried out in practice. Now that we're trying to democratize the state structure we see the model is is invalid. Leningrad's mayor Anatoliy Sobchak and his Moscow counterpart Gavriil Popov have understood this full well. Whoever is in their shoes would fail unless we delineate the authority. I'm afraid the process is going to be painful if it goes from bottom up and would run into stiff opposition if it is aided from above because the popular fear of a dictatorship is still strong. In this situation there's only one path we can take: the reform of local governments should be comprehensively and broadly debated, because debate is a form of learning. We should be patiently making one step at a time to reach the pinnacle of civilized behaviour which underlies any democratic society.

Defense Panel Aide on Draft KGB Legislation

PM0804170891 Moscow IAN PRESS RELEASE in English 3 Apr 91

[Report on interview with Leonid Sharin, acting chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Committee for Defense and Security, by Vladimir Ostrovskiy; place and date not given: "Leonid Sharin on the Soviet State Security Agencies"]

[Text] "Every single article of the Bill on State Security Agencies of the USSR sustained changes during preparations for a second reading," Leonid Sharin, Acting Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Committee for Defence and Security.

"I don't think I should speak of the special status of the State Security committee (KGB) in the system of executive bodies of our country. I would like to say, however, that we, deputies to the USSR Supreme Soviet, and members of our committee in particular acted on the assumption that the KGB has more to do with the rights and liberties of the individual than any other body.

"This is why, in our work on the draft, we took into consideration the new conditions that appeared in our society and the Soviet economy with perestroika as well as the primacy of universal human values affirmed in this process. I'm referring to the rights and liberties of the individual as the Supreme achievements of civilisaiton."

Sharin noted that Soviet MPs proceeded from the imperative need to create a legal framework for state security agencies in contrast to the past when the KGB fulfilled the instructions of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers, an agency which no longer exists. As for the Communist Party, it became, in keeping with the amended Article y of the Constitution, one of the political parties in the country's multi-party system.

As you see, Sharin observed, the need for a legal framework for the KGB is here. In working with possible versions of the bill, we proceeded not only from the state security interests of the USSR, but also the need to protect and observe the rights and liberties of Soviet citizens.

Sharin recalled that the list of functions of the KGB included some new ones which had been absent in the past. First, the establishment of a directorate within the KGB for the protection of the constitutional system—a development which helped the authors of the bill a great deal, by defining their conceptual approach to a future law.

"One more important development is that the KGB is no longer an all-Union agency. It has become a union-republican structure. This means that Union republics delegate part of their functions in protecting their security to the Union agency and keep the rest.

"Such an approach is in keeping with a future Union treaty of sovereign states joining a revamped union. The delimitation of powers within the KGB will make them more democratic and put their operations on a more rigid legal basis. This is what we need in the first place.

"Doubts were expressed weather we were right in getting down to drafting a law on state security agencies without having a clear-cut concept of state security as a whole. This is why we studied the approach of foreign countries to that problem.

"We saw that such a concept did not exist everywhere and that it sometimes evolved over decades. We arrived at the conclusion that it would be easier to amend a law, if we enact one, than to delay it and leave the KGB without a legal framework these days.

"I have in front of me the eleventh version of the bill," Sharin said. "Their drafting proceeded inan open fashion and all people's deputies of the USSR could get involved in it. Any deputy could attend our meetings and take part in our work, making suggestions as regards the draft.

"To word the text, we set up a working group which included, in addition to deputies from our committee, deputies from other committees and commissions, experts, legal consultants and other specialists in jurisprudence, security, and so forth. There were alternative versions of the bill which we examined too. All things valuable and useful were included in the main document, which is in front of you.

"A large number of changes was suggested during the first reading at the current session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. We assembled them together, studied them and incorporated them in the version which we are going to submit to parliament for a second reading."

Talking about some of the changes, Sharin said: "We were not mistaken when we agreed that it was essential to define not only the rights but also functions of the KGB. We did so to create such legal norms for the KGB which would prevent its officials from abuse of office and hence would guarantee our citizens the protection of their rights and liberties.

"In addition, the draft provides for measures to protect the personal rights of every citizen in case the law was bent in his personal case. For instance, Article 4 of the draft law says that the activities of state security agencies rest on the principles of legality, humanism, social justice and respect for the individual, his rights and liberties.

"Or take Article 5: 'Actions by officials of state security agencies may be appealed against in bodies of state authority and executive bodies, higher bodies of state security, an office of public prosecutions and a court of law.'

"The previous text lacked those provisions. They were included literally at the final stage of our work. I can tell you that the total number of alterations, suggestions and recommendation incorporated into the draft law by us rekached one hundred before we got it ready for a second reading. In my view, that number shows that Soviet MPs did thorough work on the bill.

"In essence, it is related to every important aspect of life in which our citizens are vitally interested," Sharin said in conclusion.

Panel's Finding on Joint Patrols Reported

PM0904114191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 91 Union Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Constitutional Oversight Committee on the Two Ministers' Order"]

[Text] The well-known "order of the two ministers"—defense and internal affairs—with regard to patrolling stated: "When organizing joint service, the requirements of USSR laws, Union republic laws, **the USSR Armed Forces Garrison and Guard Service Regulations, and the Soviet Militia Patrol and Post Service Regulations** are to be strictly observed" (our emphasis—editor). Following this order, the USSR president promulgated a decree which legitimated the departmental act. This provoked a wide response in the country. The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet suggested to the Constitutional Oversight Committee the formulation of a conclusion on the constitutionality of the said legally binding acts...

On 3 April the Constitutional Oversight Committee issued its conclusion in this regard, which is printed with two paragraphs abridged (they repeat the summation section). The conclusion is entitled "On Normative Acts Relating to Questions of the Use of Servicemen To Maintain Public Order."

Having examined, at the suggestion of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and on its own initiative, the question of the conformity with the USSR Constitution of the USSR presidential decree of 29 January 1991 "On Cooperation Between the Militia and Subunits of the USSR Armed Forces in Ensuring Law and Order and Fighting Crime," the provisions of the USSR Armed Forces Internal Service Regulations and the USSR Armed Forces Garrison and Guard Service Regulations approved by USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree of 30 July 1975, the USSR Council of Ministers Instruction No. 1829r of 27 October 1990, and other normative acts issued in accordance with them on the use of Soviet Army and Navy servicemen to maintain public order, the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee has established that the proposals contained in the committee's statement of 13 February 1991 on eliminating shortcomings in the legal regularization of relations in this sphere were taken into account in the legislative acts adopted and elaborated on the corresponding questions...

On the basis of what has been set forth, and guided by Article 124 of the USSR Constitution and Articles 18, 21, and 23 of the USSR Law "On Constitutional Oversight in the USSR," the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee **has arrived at this conclusion**:

1. In connection with the establishment by the USSR Law "On the Soviet Militia" of the grounds and procedure for involving servicemen in the maintenance of public order, the examination of the question of the conformity of the USSR presidential decree of 29 January 1991 "On Cooperation Between the Militia and Subunits of the USSR Armed Forces in Ensuring Law and Order and Fighting Crime" with the USSR Constitution and USSR laws is to be considered closed.

2. Account is to be taken of the USSR Supreme Soviet chairman's report that questions of the general concept of military reform and the related draft legislative acts which will reflect the USSR Constitutional Oversight Committee's proposals made in its statement of 13 February 1991 will be examined at the Fifth USSR Supreme Soviet Session.

3. Article 48 of the USSR Armed Forces Internal Service Regulations approved by USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree of 30 July 1975, insofar as it requires commanding officers (chiefs) to implement the policy not only of the Soviet Government but also of the Communist Party, and Article 20 of the USSR Armed Forces Garrison and Guard Service Regulations approved by the same decree, insofar as it obliges a garrison chief to resolve questions connected with garrison service and the implementation of joint measures not only with soviet but also with party organs locally, contravene Articles 6 and 7 of the USSR Constitution and cease to be valid the moment this conclusion is adopted and until the said discrepancy has been eliminated.

Committees Urges Reinstating Education Chief

PM1004091791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 91 p 1

[S. Sokolov report: "Why Was No Place Found in the Draft New Cabinet for the Present Chairman of the State Public Education Committee?"]

[Text] G. Yagodin, the present chairman of the State Committee for Public Education, did not figure among the candidacies for the Union Cabinet of Ministers put to members of the USSR Supreme Soviet for approval. In his place V. Sokolov, former second secretary of Krasnoyarsk CPSU Kray Committee, is nominated for this post. Let us recall, incidentally, that it was precisely with Gorbachev's appointment of Gennadiy Yagodin in the perestroyka year of 1985 that the cadre reforms in the government began.

This was why, at a joint session of the USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Committees on Education held yesterday to discuss the current proposal, one perplexed questioner after another asked: What is behind the Yagodin "problem"? Are there really sufficiently serious grounds for this? Was account taken of the opinion of republics whose education ministers have recently been getting on fine with the "center" in the person of Yagodin? Does this mean that

our education policy is taking a new turn? Why was there not a preliminary discussion of the minister's candidacy in the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, as in the case of the prime minister and his deputies?...

In the final analysis, the people's deputies unanimously (with one abstention) adopted an appeal to the president suggesting that this decision, which is painful for the whole of education, be reconsidered and that all the pros and cons be weighed once again. The Russian parliamentarians also deemed the decision unacceptable.

"Yes, I too am reaching the conclusion that you do not change horses in midstream," N. Laverov, chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, who attended the session on the instructions of M. Gorbachev, uttered this now-classic phrase by way of a conclusion.

I would like to believe that the person who began the school reforms will continue them.

Debate on Yagodin Continues

PM0904081291 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 91 p 1

[Responses from V. Sokolov, former rector of Krasnoyarsk University, and V. Tsybukh, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for Youth Affairs, to earlier article under "Coming Back to What Was Printed" rubric; first paragraph is introduction: "Is Yagodin Staying On?"]

[Text] After the publication in our newspaper of the item "Why Has No Place Been Found in the Draft of the New Cabinet for the Current Chairman of the State Committee for Public Education?", we received a number of responses, including those of two parliamentarians:

[Sokolov] First of all, I support KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and the USSR people's deputies who have come out in defense of Gennadiy Alekseyevich Yagodin's merit. The fact that nobody—neither in the government nor in the president's apparatus—has even talked about the planned changes with the minister currently doing the job is beyond my comprehension. Nobody can be forgiven such a careless and disrespectful attitude toward people in general, and especially toward those who have done services to the Fatherland. In this instance this fact is doubly unforgivable, since we are talking about a "department" which determines profound and radical phenomena and processes in our lives.

From my viewpoint, one of the main reasons for the current collapse of the economy and of the state itself is the incompetence of all levels of administration, which is a result of deeply flawed state policy in the sphere of the education and training of cadres over the last 30-35 years. Once again the country's highest leadership has demonstrated its elementary lack of understanding of this problem. In view of what I have just said, I do not believe that I can take part in any future discussion, nor can I lay claim to the post of chairman of the USSR State Committee for Education in accordance with the president's submission.

[Signed] Professor V. Sokolov, Honored Scientist, former rector of Krasnoyarsk University, Moscow.

"The formation of the cabinet has not yet been completed," V. Tsybukh, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for Youth Affairs, informs us, "candidacies are being submitted and discussed. Including at a recent joint session of two committees of the country's Supreme Soviet—our own and the one for public education—which were attended by a number of RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] people's deputies, when this very question of the chairman of the State Committee for Public Education was examined (on a preliminary basis, needless to say). On our committee's initiative, which was supported by the deputies, the consideration of candidacies other than that of the current chairman, G.A. Yagodin, was deemed to be unsuitable.

"We relayed the opinion of our committees to the president of the country, M.S. Gorbachev, and he agreed with it."

Justice Minister Views Latest Crime Statistics

PM1004155491 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 91 Union Edition p 6

[Report by Valeriy Rudnev on 5 April news conference at USSR Ministry of Justice: "Crime on the Way Up"]

[Text] At a news conference held at the USSR Ministry of Justice 5 April, certain new details of the country's crime statistics were revealed for the first time.

What does the most terrible "graph" in these statistics, the one that records the supreme measure of punishment, look like today? In short, the sentence was carried out on 195 criminals who had committed the most serious crimes. In all, the exceptional measure of punishment was passed on 445 people in the country as a whole in 1990. For what, specifically, were they put up "against the wall"? Six for rape, seven for attempts on the life of militia staffers, and one each for treason to the motherland, banditry, and disrupting the work of correctional labor institutions. The others were for murder with aggravating circumstances. In 29 cases, after the death sentence had been passed, it was commuted. The fate of the others is being decided. The death penalty was not imposed on any women in 1990.

In all, in 1990 approximately 809,000 people were convicted, which is 20 percent more than in the past. The conviction rate per 100,000 population was 378. In 1989 it was 315. The top "rate" for convictions was in the Russian Federation—465. The lowest rates were in Azerbaijan, at 144, and Armenia, at 165.

The growth curve for juvenile crime last year was rising more steeply than for adults. In all, more than 111,000 juveniles were convicted, which is 26.8 percent more than in 1989. The proportion of women among those convicted remains at 9 percent, although the actual number increased, totaling 71,500 in 1990.

The number of acquittals is increasing from year to year. In 1990 5,064 people were acquitted, of whom 2,669 had been committed for trial by organs of preliminary investigation. The courts deemed 6,911 people unfit to plead, and sent them for compulsory treatment.

Some 243,400 complaints (from attorneys and convicted people) and protests (from prosecutors) were filed against sentences in criminal cases. On the basis of the results of their examination, sentences against 28,700 of those convicted were lifted, while for 20,500 people the sentences were changed.

Among civil cases, disputes arising from marriage and family relationships (50 percent), housing disputes (7.5 percent), and labor disputes (6 percent) still predominate. There was a sharp increase in the number of actions to defend people's honor and dignity. One in every three cases in this category arose in connection with mass media publications. In all, 1,003 actions were brought against journalists in 1990, and 610 of them were upheld.

Sergey Lushchikov, USSR minister of justice, comments on the legal statistics:

The figures are worrying. And I am not about to predict the development of the situation in 1991. Too many circumstances simultaneously influence this sphere of our life. Take just one factor—the increase in retail prices. Where will it lead?

[IZVESTIYA] Then let us talk about specific figures. In line with court decisions, people who were unlawfully dismissed from their jobs were paid 6.2 million rubles [R] out of the state treasury. How much was exacted from the officials whose decisions led to the unlawful acts?

[Lushchikov] Alas, only 5 percent of those millions. That is the problem. On the one hand, and I rank this first, the trade unions have not yet become reliable guarantors of the working people's protection. After all, in nearly every case of unlawful dismissal they gave their consent, and thereby, intentionally or otherwise, encouraged officials to break the law. And please note that trade union workers are in no way accountable for this. On the other hand, when there is an absence of evidence of criminal intent, naturally only three months' salary can be exacted from the guilty official for such a misdemeanor, and not the entire sum of damages. In short, labor legislation needs improving.

[IZVESTIYA] A fact from your statistics: In 1990, 30,000 lawyers fulfilled 14 million clients' instructions. But by all appearances, the tally of unmet demand for legal services runs to approximately the same number, tens of millions...

[Lushchikov] You are right: We need more lawyers. Here the USSR lags markedly behind international standards.

[IZVESTIYA] People don't know much about the system of notaries' offices. Yet judging by the figures, interesting phenomena are occurring there. For instance, in 1990 there was only a 1-percent increase in the activity of notaries in the certification of judgments relating to the exaction of debts for apartment rents and municipal services. Whereas similar activity in drawing up documents for actions abroad increased by 118.6 percent...

[Lushchikov] It is not a question of the notaries. True, we have very few of them, but they carry out their duties conscientiously. Unfortunately, you are right: People don't know much about notaries, and make little use of their services. As for specific percentages, the riddle is easily solved: It is officials from housing organs who turn to notaries to exact debts, but it is business people who seek documents for actions abroad. So you can judge for yourself...

Economic

47 Kuzbass Mines Closed, Bus Drivers Strike

LD1004145491 Moscow TASS in English 1433 GMT 10 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo April 10 TASS—Despite the fact that three mines have resumed work today, the situation in Kuzbass remains tense with 47 out of 76 mines closed.

The Kuznetsk metallurgic plant has lengthened the coking process due to cuts in raw materials supplies. They have already used all the 40 tonnes of coal stored at the plant.

If the situation does not change, the plant will start shutting down shops with continuous technological processes.

Yesterday, the council of striking committees in Kuzbass decided to continue the strike.

Bus drivers joined the action today, adding to the hardships of 500,000 residents of Kemerovo.

Kuzbass Strike Committees Warned of 'Famine'

PM0904193991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

[Viktor Kostyukovskiy report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Strike Committees Convene Grand Council"]

[Text] Kemerovo—An expanded sitting of the Kuzbass Council of Strike Committees has been held in Kemerovo. The outcome of the Congress of RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] People's Deputies and of the talks between the government and representatives of mining regions and the current moment and future strike tactics are on the agenda.

Many guests are attending the council—miners have received requests for coal shipments from representatives of the Tomsk GRES-2 [state regional electric power station] and Nizhniy Tagil and West Siberian metallurgical combines. The sitting is not yet over and a decision has yet to be made.

The coal consumers explain: We support your demands and understand you, but you will appreciate that we cannot close down, otherwise we could end up without a metallurgical industry. The miners' answer is: If you understand us, you must also see that we cannot end our strike. And giving coal to everyone who needs it means ending the strike.

A. Zaytsev, general director of the "Oblkemerovougol" leased production and commercial association, put forward different arguments: Everything must be done to prevent the start of a very real famine in the Kuzbass. There is the possibility of establishing a permanent supply route whereby meat and dairy products could come into the Kuzbass from abroad, but for that, once again, coal is needed. As yet there is no response to this proposal either.

Viktor Barsov, chief conductor and artistic director of the Kuzbass Symphony Orchestra unexpectedly spoke: The orchestra supports the miners and, in additional to material assistance, would like to give them moral support in the form of a concert.

According to the strike committee council, 100 Kuzbass enterprises are taking part in the strike. Fifty-one out of 76 mines are completely on strike, seven are working without shipping coal, and eight are shipping it by the decisions of the city strike committees. Moreover, four open-cut mines, 19 mining engineering and shaft-sinking administrations, and 4 truck depots are not operating.

Strikes Continue in Vorkuta, Donetsk

LD1004143491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Moscow, 9 April (TASS)—[passage omitted] Komsomolskaya mine which is supplying fuel to its own workers' settlements also stopped sending coal to consumers outside Vorkuta today. According to what a TASS correspondent has been told by Viktor Kolesnikov, chairman of Vorkuta town workers' strike committee and a miner at Komsomolskaya mine, the miners have decided to continue their strike. They have put forward two basic overall demands—the dissolution of the current USSR Parliament and the immediate adoption of a general standard tariff agreement. They plan to continue the strike until these demands are met. Tomorrow afternoon there is to be a general meeting of the town's miners to discuss the situation.

There was a meeting in Donetsk (Ukraine) today organized by the Donetsk workers' (strike) committee. Those who spoke at it insisted that the political demands put forward during their continuing strike must be met. These demands include the resignation of the country's president and the dissolution of the USSR Supremed Soviet. The government has been accused of quite a few things as a result of price rises.

The situation at the oblast's mines still remains the same. Only 19 of 122 coal mining enterprises are refraining either partially or totally from extracting coal. However, the strike committees are insisting not only that the strike must continue but also that it must spread.

New Collectives Join Donbass Strikes

PM0904194591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

[Nikolay Lisovenko report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Strike Spreads"]

[Text] Donetsk—The miners' strike continues. New collectives are joining in.

On Tuesday the collectives of eight mines and mine administrations in the "Donetskugol" association remained idle. At "Krasnoarmeyskugol" the figure was five, at "Pavlovgradugol" five, and at "Pervomayskugol" likewise five. At Makeyevka and Selidovo another two mines stopped work under the influence of strike committees.

In the last 24 hours 50 mines in the Ukraine were not mining coal, while 204 were in operation.

In Lugansk the oblast court has started examining the action brought by the administration of the "Permomayskugol" mine named for Menzhinskiy and the "Gorskoy" and "Karbonit" mines against the strike committees of those enterprises for conducting an illegal strike. The court has interrupted the hearing to clarify a number of additional facts.

One Mine At Work in Pechora Coalfield

LD0904222291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] And now a brief chronicle of miners' events. In the Pechora coalfield only the Vorgashorskaya mine is working normally at the moment. Miners of the 12 other pits are taking part in strikes in different forms and to different degrees. Six of them are completely idle.

All 'Intaugol' Coal Mines Reported Working

LD0904222491 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] All the mines of the Intaugol concern have reached the planned level of extraction. Over the last 24 hours the miners extracted 27,500 tonnes of fuel, more than 1,500 tonnes above the plan. All coal enterprises of Inta are working at an accelerated pace today.

Strike 'Only Suspended'

LD0904235691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2050 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The strike in the Intaugol concern has been only suspended. This also has been reported by the NORTHWEST News Agency. The decision to suspend the strike was adopted directly at the mines under pressure from the administration, stated Igor (?Lapkin), deputy chairman of the trade union association of the workers of the coal industry. He noted that the concern is tightly connected with the functioning of the social units of Inta and of a range of other towns. This is why it was psychologically more difficult for the miners of Inta to strike than for their colleagues in Vorkuta.

The economic demands of the miners were supported by the Presidium of the Council of the Komi Republic Federation of Trade Union Organizations. On a decision made by the Presidium, 2 million rubles have been allocated for Vorkuta and 1 million rubles for Inta.

But it was underlined in an interview given to the NORTHWEST News Agency by Vladimir Orekhov, the secretary of the council of the republican federation of trade union organizations, these sums are destined not for the miners but for the territorial trade union committee exclusively for precise purposes: sanatorium-clinics and for children's institutions. Of late, they have been on the verge of closing because of the strike.

Strike Threatens Coking, Steel Plant Closures

LD0904120291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0900 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Here is a disturbing piece of news we received this morning from our correspondent in the mid-Urals. Due to the continuing miners strikes, the major industrial enterprises are suffering acute shortages of raw materials. The coking batteries in Nizhniy Tagil, which cost millions of rubles, are threatened with collapse. The production of unique transformer steel at the Verkhisetskiy metal works—which is among the oldest—may have to be stopped. A delegation of Verkhisetsk metal workers left Sverdlovsk this morning for Chelyabinsk.

Metallurgy Situation May Be 'Catastrophic'

LD0904220591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1820 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr (TASS)—Due to the disruption of coal supplies, the situation at the enterprises in the metallurgical industry has reached a critical point. A total of 21 furnaces and three batteries of coke ovens have been stopped, on the rest of the furnaces a mode of work that prevents the destruction of units is being maintained with great difficulty.

In connection with this, a TASS correspondent asked Serafim Kolpakov, [outgoing] USSR minister of metallurgy, to comment on the situation that has come about, what consequences it may lead to, and what the way out of it is.

Now the industry has sharply decreased its output of coke, cast iron, steel, rolled iron, pipes, and non-ferrous metals, the minister stated. "This provokes a chain reaction of disruption in other industries. Thus, due to disruptions in supply of coke and metal, chemical and machinery construction enterprises, including the construction of agricultural machinery, are being shut down. Everyone bears considerable financial and material losses. Due to the miners' strike, from the beginning of the year the iron and steel works alone have suffered a loss of 2,000 million rubles. Naturally they are dozens of times greater in the national economy as a whole.

If the situation does not change, then the consequences of the unavoidable destruction of batteries of coke ovens will be no less catastrophic. It will take years to restore them. The country will be left without this metallurgical production, and this will sharply lower our production in all other industries and will cause millions of people to lose their jobs.

It is true that in the past 24 hours coal supply to the metallurgical industry was further cut by 33,000 tonnes.

There is one way out, the minister believes: Immediately to stop miners' strikes, not even falling short of introducing the state of emergency in the country. The social situation in the collectives of iron and steel workers is tense and is kept under control with great difficulties.

The minister noted that the industry's headquarters has submitted to the government a package of proposals for improving production, social and domestic living conditions of the iron and steel workers.

Kazakh Mine Strikes Not Ruled Illegal

PM0904194991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 91 Union Edition p 2

[Oleg Stefashin report: "Miners Win Case"]

[Text] Karaganda—The oblast court has finished examining the action brought by the "Karagandaugol" association against the miners union territorial council and the oblast worker (strike) committee.

In its action the administration asked that the miners' strike held 1-2 March be ruled illegal and demanded that its organizers pay 9.7 million rubles in compensation for damage caused to the enterprises. The trade union territorial council and oblast worker committee were

charged with failing to notify the local organs of power of the strike within the prescribed period and with having no right at all to conduct it, since an insufficient number of labor collectives had been in favor of it.

During the protracted trial all these charges were essentially withdrawn. The court came to the conclusion that, as the strike was basically political in nature, the miners' actions could not fall within the law "On the Procedure for Resolving Collective Labor Disputes (Conflicts)." Only the strike at the "Molodezhnyy" open-cut mine was ruled illegal.

The leadership of the association is not satisfied with the outcome of the trial. It is presumed that the administration will lodge an appeal with the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Court.

Commentator Views Results of Miners' Talks

LD1004044491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1140 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By commentator German Zverev]

[Text] Moscow 9 Apr (TASS)—Talks between the government and the miners have ended. The Union leadership is ready to meet the miners' economic demands.

In the middle of March the miners' strikes, which broke out in turn in a number of regions, boiled down to one thing. Economic demands were pushed into the background and it was political ultimatums to the supreme Union power structures that took precedence. The sharp and in many ways unexpected change in the nature of the strike had been clearly brought about by the coincidence at approximately one and the same time of the aims of the three different sociopolitical forces. These were the miners' strike committees, the opposition parties on the Democratic Russia platform, and the leadership of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet categorically refused to urge the miners to go back to work. Moreover, on 21 March, it demanded that Valentin Pavlov sit down and talk to the strikers. Ivan Silayev, who had arrived in the Kuzbass on that same day, stated bluntly that "the miners are perfectly correct in putting forward such high demands". A week later the Russian prime minister met in Moscow with representatives of the Kuzbass workers' committees and again reaffirmed the desire of the Russian Federation leadership to draw the miners over to their own jurisdiction.

The extraordinary Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies on 2 April, by 721 votes to 113 with 80 "abstentions", accepted the demands of the striking miners as just. I would point out that to recognize the just nature of the demands and to find the means of satisfying them are, as they say, "two big differences".

The only ones who will make good capital from playing the "miners card" are the opposition parties. That is why they are so actively supporting the political ultimatums. They are risking nothing and take responsibility for nothing. In their view, the "honeymoon" with the miners will provide them with the solidarity that has always singled out those parties representing "his majesty the working class", and which they can't get enough of.

Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov throughout the month consistently refused to have talks with "political" strikers. This is perfectly logical, for if he were to recognize the justness of the ultimatum his next step would have to be his immediate resignation.

At the talks the prime minister refused the short-sighted tactic of numerous promises "just to make peace". A mechanism to realize the two basic economic demands of the miners was mapped out: a wage increase in April-May of 25 percent, in July-October of 50 percent, in October-December of 75 percent, in January-March of next year of double, and an offer to the regions of the right to dispose independently of up to seven percent of the volume of energy-producing and coking coal which they produced.

The USSR president, speaking at the talks, said: "The main thing now is not to be drawn into a fight. Let us get down to practicalities, otherwise we will find ourselves in a most serious situation".

Meanwhile, certain leaders of radical strike committees and their allies from the opposition movements were dissatisfied with the results of the talks. On 4 April, at a news conference of the independent miners' union and the interregional coordinating council of strike committees, the argument was that the question of authority had not been decided. V. Golikov, the chairman of the Council of Workers' Committees, assured the "Democratic Russia" leadership that in his region the strike would carry on under political slogans. But one would like to hope that the majority of the striking miners would not wish to give up their economic gains for the sake of doubtful political perspectives.

A dialogue with the moderate majority of the miners does not rule out tough measures being taken by the cabinet against those strikers who are putting forward anti-constitutional ultimatums. The following sanctions are possible: the removal of lump-sum payments and local benefits and suspension from service. The Supreme Court is working out juridical sanctions in relation to the strike organizers. The measure is an explicable one if you consider that in a number of areas the strikes began not through a decision of the majority of the workers' collective, but under pressure from the strike committees.

Prices for Sour-Milk Products Lowered

LD0904145491 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The price rises, including on foodstuffs, have hit all our pockets hard. Prices for sour-milk foods have

caused particular indignation. After all, they are a basic necessity. The Moscow City Executive committee has proposed to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers that a number of foodstuffs be excluded from the list of goods sold at free prices. It has now become known that a decision has been adopted on the sale of 51 types of foodstuffs at lower prices. Here are some prices.

Whereas prior to the reform a 250 gram packet of Osobaya cottage cheese cost 51 kopecks, following the price rises the cost went up to 3.07 rubles [R]. Now it is sold at a fixed state price of R1.30. After the reform, fruit kefir cost R1.80, now it's price is to be R1.00. Prices for other sour-milk products have been lowered by approximately the same proportion.

Bank Bases Revaluing Savings on March Decree

PM0904114991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 91 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "At the USSR State Bank"]

[Text] The USSR Presidential Decree of 22 March 1991 "On Compensation to the Population for Losses Due to the Onetime Increase in Retail Prices" provides for the revaluation of the population's monetary resources deposited with the USSR Gosbank [State Bank] and the USSR Workers' Savings and Credit Bank. The revaluation is being carried out on all kinds of deposits, based on their balance as of 1 March 1991, in accordance with the procedure indicated in the report of the USSR Gosbank, the USSR Ministry of Finance, and the USSR Workers' Savings and Credit Bank published on 26 March 1991.

As is now known, on 28 March 1991, the Lithuanian Government adopted a resolution on the question of paying compensation on deposits in connection with the onetime increase in prices providing for different norms and a different procedure for compensating the inhabitants of Lithuania. The aforementioned questions were not discussed or agreed beforehand with the USSR Gosbank and USSR Workers' Savings and Credit Bank.

According to available information, ways of paying compensation on deposits in the USSR Workers' Savings and Credit Bank that differ from those set by the USSR Presidential Decree of 22 March 1991 are being drafted in certain other republics.

In this regard the USSR Gosbank, that—under the USSR Law "On Banks and Banking" (Article 38)—guarantees the security of deposits kept in the USSR Workers' Savings and Credit Bank and their prompt repayment to the population, deems it necessary to state that the USSR Gosbank bears no responsibility for any decisions enhancing the value of deposits differing from those set by the USSR Presidential Decree of 22 March 1991.

Base Industry Pay Agreements To Be Negotiated

PM1004081791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 91 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Official" rubric: "In the USSR Cabinet of Ministers"]

[Text] The transition of the national economy to market relations and the emergence of new forms of ownership, require a clear demarcation of rights and responsibilities between owners of production and labor collectives. This is particularly necessary while introducing new prices, implementing measures for the social protection of working people, and reforming remuneration of labor. In the first instance this demarcation must be made in the basic sectors ensuring stable development of the whole national economy.

The USSR Cabinet of Ministers adopted an instruction ordering the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the USSR Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering and Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum and Gas Industry, the "Gazprom" state concern, the USSR Ministry of Metallurgy, the "Norilskiy Nikel" state concern, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical and Petroleum Refining Industry, the State Agrochemical Association, the "Tekhnokhim" intersector state association, the USSR Ministry of Railways, and the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, together with the relevant trade union associations, to create commissions and to conclude by 1 July 1991 wage rate agreements for 1992-1995. The agreements will stipulate the sides' mutual obligations to provide the national economy with the necessary volume of output (work, services) for its normal functioning, as well as a complex of social guarantees for working people depending on the nature and conditions of production in the sector.

USSR deputy prime ministers have been made responsible for the supervision of progress in the implementation of the instruction: Comrade V.Kh. Doguzhiyev for the USSR Ministry of Railways, the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical and Petroleum Refining Industry, the State Agrochemical Association, and the "Tekhnokhim" intersector state association; Comrade V.M. Velichko for the USSR Ministry of Metallurgy and the "Norilskiy Nikel" state concern; and Comrade L.D. Ryabev for the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the USSR Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering and Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum and Gas Industry, and the "Gazprom" state concern.

The USSR Ministry of Labor and Social Questions and the USSR Ministry of Justice, together with interested ministries and departments and with the participation of trade unions, were instructed to prepare proposals on the responsibility of the parties to the wage rate agreement and to present them for examination by the USSR Cabinet of Ministers.

Defense Industry Conversion Poses Problems

LD0604000991 Moscow World Service in English 2000 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Boris Belitskiy commentary]

[Text] It is now some three months since a national program was adopted here in the Soviet Union for converting defense industry plants to civilian production, and tonight Boris Belitskiy considers the views of Soviet economists on progress in carrying out this program. Well Boris?

[Belitskiy] Work on a national conversion program began in 1989 as soon as it became clear that the cold war was ending and there was a need to convert a considerable part of the defense industry to meeting civilian needs. Involved in this work were experts from the defense establishment, several civilian ministries, the USSR Academy of Sciences, and local government. In drafting the program they were guided by several basic principles, namely that the defense industry plants subject to conversion would be regeared to meet the top priority needs of the national economy, such as the needs for civilian aircraft and ships, computers and other electronic goods, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, and the like. Other guideline principles required the defense industry knowhow to be turned over to civilian industries and that the scale of conversion would be determined by the scale of the cuts in military spending. Well, last September the draft of the program was discussed by the Presidential Council, and on 15 December it was adopted as a national program for the period until 1995.

Today economists all over the country are discussing recommendations as to how best the program can be carried out. Naturally the initial stages of the conversion process have not been free of serious mistakes. To use a slightly grotesque comparison, there were cases of highly advanced defense establishments, such as those that made key units for the Buran space shuttle, being switched instead to manufacturing pots and pans. Needless to say such simplistic approaches to the problem have now been overcome and the overall picture is quite encouraging.

In the past two years the military budget was slashed by more than 10 billion rubles. The conversion process has affected over 420 defense industry plants and 200 research institutions and designing organizations. Last year alone more than 500,000 workers in the defense industry were retrained to produce civilian goods.

The problems the economist are now debating are numerous. For example there are the inevitable employment problems that conversion is producing in some areas, particularly in the Russian Federation where 82 percent of the country's military-industrial potential is located. One of the economists recommendations in this case is to give the maximum encouragement to small business, that can soak up jobless people most rapidly. Or there is the problem of the more highly skilled personnel leaving some defense establishments following their conversion because of lower pay. Economists see two ways of dealing with this difficult problem. First the converted enterprises must for a time receive financial support out of the national budget and the budgets of their republics. Second, it's necessary to stimulate competition, that alone can raise quality requirements and thereby enhance the status of highly skilled personnel.

Still another problem is the survival of some of the secrecy that shrouded the defense industry and that hampers the transfer of knowhow to civilian industries. Economists have pointed out that this threshold of secrecy must be lowered, there must be a clear definition of what constitutes a state secret, what constitutes a commercial secret, and what is not secret at all. This will remove unnecessary obstacles to the speedy fertilization of the civilian industries with new ideas for the more sophisticated defense industry. Such are some of the problems of conversion that the present debate among Soviet economists is helping to solve.

Agricultural

Gorbachev Meets Market Farm Leaders

LD1004102291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 0900 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] One of the most important tasks facing the agro-industrial complex today is, perhaps, to make it possible for a multistructural agricultural economy to run its own affairs and to dispose of the fruit of its labor independently. It is from this angle that issues connected with the forthcoming spring field work and with the prospects for developing an agrarian center were examined at a meeting between President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and leaders of collective and state farms and agro-industrial enterprises that have gone over to new forms of running their economic affairs. As was noted at the meeting, agricultural firms and agricultural associations that unite under one roof, their production, processing, storage, and marketing of agricultural output now operate successfully. These new structural forms in the agro-industrial complex have already proven themselves competitive in the conditions of transition to market relations.

Agricultural Developments for 28 Mar-3 Apr

LD0404030991

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian from 28 March to 3 April. Times of broadcast, given in GMT, are in parentheses at the end of each item.

28-31 March

No significant developments to report.

1 April

Collective and state farms of Tajikistan have started mass sowing of corn for silage and grain. A drawn-out, rainy, and cold spring makes the farmers hurry. In the southern regions of the republic it is customary to collect two harvests from each hectare: of green plants and of golden grain. This year, over 76,000 hectares have been allotted to corn. (1000)

2-3 April

No significant developments to report.

Military

Military-Political Section Amends Shlyaga Report

PM0904140791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Apr 91 First Edition p 3

[Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 April 1991 carries on page 3 a report, headlined "Information," from the Main Military-Political Directorate of the USSR Armed Forces. The text of this report reads as follows:

"In connection with the use in certain mass media of examples and facts cited at the First All-Army Party Conference, the Main Military-Political Directorate explains that the original of the report by the chief of the USSR Armed Forces Main Military-Political Directorate pointed out, verbatim, that the cessation of the functioning of the Warsaw Pact's military organization dictates the need to build defensive Soviet troop groupings 'within the 1939-1941 borders.'"

The relevant passage of Main Military-Political Directorate Chief Shlyaga's report to the First All-Army Party Conference, as reported in Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 30 March 1991, reads as follows:

"The question of a military danger for our country still remains on the agenda. Moreover, its solution is rendered considerably more complex by the termination of the Warsaw Pact military organization's functions, and ultimately by the need to build defensive groupings within the USSR's 1939 borders. This, in turn, also means vast sums of money and resources, labor by construction industry workers and the entire personnel, and hardships and privations for the people."

MVD Defends Troops' Role in South Ossetia

PM0504121991 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Apr 91 First Edition p 2

["Statement by USSR MVD Internal Troops Political Directorate"—SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA headline]

[Text] The Internal Troops contingent in Tskhinvali is insignificant, and its actions, in accordance with the existing legislation on this question, are strictly limited to the state of emergency region, namely to the city of Tskhinvali alone. Failure to understand this important circumstance leads to misinterpretations and superficial conclusions concerning the tasks and functions of the troops—their alleged neutrality and callous indifference to people's suffering.

The actions of the subunits sent to Tskhinvali, as the facts bear witness, are sufficiently effective. Maintaining the state of emergency regime in exceptionally difficult circumstances, the Internal Troops servicemen (and, as is well known, these are boys aged 18-20), hourly risking their lives under gunfire from the various parties, are doing everything in their power to avert bloodshed and ensure the safety of the civilian population and peoples' constitutional rights and freedoms.

Any charges against the troops of passivity or idleness not only have not the slightest basis but are also, in our opinion, malevolent attempts to compromise their difficult, dangerous work in the eyes of the public.

[signed] The USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Internal Troops Political Directorate

Civilian Defense Industries' Output To Double

LD0904144391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 9 Apr 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] By 1995 total civilian output from the defense industry, taking conversion into account, should double and exceed 110 billion rubles. However, behind these entirely positive figures lies a serious problem engendered by conversion itself. Not infrequently, the finished product, the product of the labor of thousands and thousands of people, as we know, gets cut up or melted down. Chasing after the conversion plan, the defense industry at times produces, well, white elephants. Remember those spades made from titanium?

Nonstaff Officer Reserve Subunits Created

PM0404133791 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Apr 91 First Edition p 1

[Report from "Army and Navy: News Service" feature compiled by Lieutenant Colonel A. Plotnikov under general heading: "Decided, Signed..."]

[Text] The USSR defense minister has issued directive D-13 "on the creation of nonstaff subunits of the officer corps reserve." With a view to putting in order the work with officers at the disposal of the distrct and fleet commanders, preventing the decline of their professional skill, and maintaining military discipline at the proper level, it is proposed to organize with these men classes for commander training and the servicing of equipment and to provide for their participation in various garrison duty events.

Arkhipov on Military Assistance to Agriculture

LD0804153591 Moscow TASS in English 1548 GMT 8 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The Soviet Army increasingly relies on its farms to feed itself, according to Soviet logistics chief General of the Army Vladimir Arkhipov.

Last year, army farms produced 380 million roubles worth of products, Arkhipov said, commenting on a new programme to promote market relations in the armed forces.

"Economising the country's food resources, we have been self-reliant in meat for three months, potatoes and vegetable—four months and eggs—3.5 months," he said.

Children' institutions and hospitals in several garrisons are provided with milk all year round, he said.

In addition, Soviet soldiers helped farmers during the harvest. Last year more than 46,000 trucks and 90,000 troops helped the farms, he said.

Troops also helped after natural disasters and other emergencies.

However, several regions failed to deliver 220,000 tonnes of potatoes to the armed forces last year, Arkhipov said.

So far the armed forces helped civilians for free. This will change with the shift to a market. "Profits from our economic activities will be used to improve the living standards of servicemen and their families," Arkhipov said.

Correction to Navy Faces Budget, Conversion

PM0804133791

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Navy Faces Budget, Conversion Issues", published in the 8 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT page 55:

Page 58, column two, end of paragraph six make read ...and landing aircraft. [new graf]

Our design bureau began developing this class of aircraft in the early sixties. Everyone knows about the display of the Yak-36 at the world-renowned Tushino airshow in 1967. The Yak-38, which is on a par with Britain's Harrier, the Harrier II, and its U.S. version, the AV-8B, is world-renowned. It is currently in service in our Armed Forces and Navy. The aircraft does have certain shortcomings, but nevertheless resolving this kind of scientific and technical task has enabled us to think about what our design bureau can offer the Air Forces and the Navy in the year 2000. We are currently testing this kind of aircraft. Under the name Yak-141 we are planning in the near future to attempt a series of world records in this aircraft, and International Aviation Federation inspectors are currently engaged in registering these records, which will be attempted at our airfield outside Moscow.

[Yurakov] If this aircraft is developed and funds are allocated for a series of the aircraft, how will the fleet regard the possibility of acquiring this aircraft?

[Chernavin] The fleet will take a positive attitude. We display very great interest in this aircraft. I have visited the design bureau and was shown this aircraft, including a flight demonstration. It already exists. But there are a few problems which have still to be resolved right now. We will welcome this. However, you were right in saying: If the appropriate funds are allocated.

[Koksanov] I stress once again: If there are the funds—and, from my viewpoint, these funds certainly must be found—this area must be developed; as for aircraft carriers—perhaps I am wrong in calling them aircraft carriers; rather, aircraft-carrying ships—money must be found to adapt these ships. Even that word—adapt—is not suitable. The aircraft will be deployed on these ships with a small amount of modernization [word indistinct].

[Dondukov] This class of... (adding omitted passage)

Baltic Republics

Baltic Leaders Issue Communique on Solidarity

LD0404113591 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1700 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] A conference of the leaders of the Latvian People's Front, the Estonian People's Front, and the Lithuanian Sajudis democratic movement has taken place in Ligatne, in the Republic of Latvia, to discuss further steps toward independence. The communique which was adopted says the following:

The popular movements of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, which were successful in the 1990 legislative elections, consider it important to continue their activity while making it more effective. This will make it possible for them to serve as guarantors in achieving full independence in the Baltics, according to the will of the people as expressed in the 9 February and 3 March plebiscites and referendums. Regulating all essential economic, political, ethnic, and other issues, and implementing reforms, depends on the resolution of the key issue—the attainment of state independence—and for this reason the activity of popular movements must be aimed at this first and foremost. In order to achieve the main aim, more coordinated activity between the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian popular movements than hitherto is needed, and also toward the possibility of the Baltic states speaking as a joint force during negotiations with the USSR and at international forums.

To develop links and strengthen integration in the Baltics, it is considered appropriate to recommend that parliaments and governments review and renew treaties which were signed between Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania before (?June) 1940. At the same time, it is deemed necessary to strengthen the influence of the Baltic popular movements within state structures at all levels with the aim of accelerating the processes of democratization and privatization, and in order to create a society based on the private property of a free citizen.

The communique is signed: on behalf of the Latvian People's Front—Romualdas Razukas, chairman of the People's Front; Dainis Ivans, deputy chairman of the Republic of Latvia Supreme Council and member of the board of the People's Front; on behalf of the Estonian People's Front—Mati Hint, member of the board of the People's Front; Edgar Savisaar, leader of the Republic of Estonia Government and member of the board of the People's Front; on behalf of the Lithuanian Sajudis Democratic Movement—Juozas Tumelis, chairman of the Sajudis Seimas Council; Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Republic of Lithuania Supreme Council.

Baltic, Russian Deputy Foreign Ministers in Riga

PM0504095391 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 22 Mar 91 p 1

[ELTA report: "Consultative Meeting"]

[Text] Lithuania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that a consultative meeting of deputy foreign ministers from the Baltic countries and the RSFSR was held in Riga 19 March. This is already the second such event—the first meeting of the foreign departments' representatives was held in Vilnius in February. These conferences are a specific implementation of the Declaration on Cooperation Between the Baltic Countries and the RSFSR, signed in Tallinn 13 January.

The delegations at the Riga conference exchanged information on the population polls and the referendum organized by the USSR in the Baltic states, and appraised the political situation in the region. Much attention was devoted to forthcoming events like the Berlin conference (June), the Krakow symposium (May-June), and the Moscow conference which are being organized as part of the CSCE process. The sides discussed questions of diplomatic recognition for the Baltic republics and the internationalization of this region's problems.

The delegations stated their positions regarding cooperation with the USSR Foreign Ministry and the so-called Foreign Ministers Council, whose organization has been taken on by USSR Foreign Minister A. Bessmertnykh. It is well known that, in contrast with Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not send its representatives to this "Council of Union Republic Ministers."

The incipient contacts between the Foreign Ministries were appraised by the sides as highly useful with a view to quests for effective solution of problems and coordination of their steps in the foreign policy sphere. It was decided to continue the meetings in the future.

Estonian CPSU Leader Annus Interviewed

PM2803095191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 91 Second Edition pp 1, 2

["Topical Interview" with L.E. Annus, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party (CPSU) Central Committee, by V. Shirokov in Tallinn, date not given; first three paragraphs are introduction: "Taking Up the Challenge of the Times"]

[Text] The situation currently prevailing within Estonia's communist movement is unique in its own way. The 21st Estonian Communist Party Congress was held in Tallinn 15 December 1990, and the preamble to the party's statute henceforth reads: "The Estonian Communist Party is an autonomous political organization, uniting Communists on a voluntary basis, maintaining

ideological and organizational unity with the CPSU, and having its own Program and Statute."

Another 21st Estonian Communist Party Congress was held 26 January this year, and its political declaration states that "henceforth the Estonian Communist Party is an autonomous party with its own Program, Statute, and membership."

And so, there two Estonian Communist Parties and two Central Committees. How fundamentally different are the avenues of their activities and programs? Our correspondent asked this question of L.E. Annus, first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party (CPSU) Central Committee and member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

[Shirokov] Lembit Elmarovich, at first glance the situation is truly paradoxical. How did it come about?

[Annus] It is well known that there was a split among Communists at the 20th Estonian Communist Party Congress. A "transitional period," which would have seen the party comrades' political self-determination, was proclaimed. However, instead of consolidating the ranks, members of the autonomous Estonian Communist Party and of that section of the party which remained on the CPSU platform carried on clarifying internal party relations. Meanwhile, our common political adversaries, without being squeamish about using even the basest methods, poured mud over all Communists without exception. They were also aided and abetted by gentlemen from the Supreme Soviet, who meanwhile had already proclaimed the Estonian Republic's independence on three occasions.

The party wing which firmly adheres to the CPSU positions was dubbed the "fly-by-night party" and God knows what other names. Treating them in a scornfully ironical fashion, some people tried to depict our detachment of Communists as a group of inveterate conservatives or callous conformists. Everything was, and still is, being done to compromise us and sweep us out of Estonia's political arena.

But time does not stand still, and even our opponents are realizing the obvious fact that there is no point in expecting an early funeral of the Estonian Communist Party, which is organically linked with the CPSU. It is alive, it is fighting, and it is growing stronger in this struggle.

The totalitarian diktat of past decades could not have failed to have an effect on our party. The corroding effect of Soviet arrogance, careerism, and disregard for the people's interests, which were typical of some party "bosses", undermined confidence in the entire communist movement. Another result of the ruling party's haughty attitude was that many rank and file Communists "slackened" and forgot how to uphold the working people's interests, in other words they lost the actual qualities which have always given strength to party members. Now we have to get back to our roots. But this requires unity and purity of the ranks, it requires consistent and principled actions...

[Shirokov] So far there has been no sign of such unity; on the contrary, contradictions between the two communist parties have not yet been eliminated. What is the stumbling block, as it were?

[Annus] Unity should not be attained at any cost, and certainly not at the cost of betraying the Communist movement's fundamental principles. Meanwhile, the documents adopted by the autonomous Estonian Communist Party's January congress are ambiguous, inconsistent, and contradictory. Look no further than the provision about dual membership of the autonomous Estonian Communist Party and the CPSU, which is a blatant violation of the provision in the statute adopted by the 28th party congress.

Dual membership is tantamount to dual morality. One for Moscow, another for local use. As a matter of fact, it seems to me that the autonomous party has retained the name "Communist" only temporarily, to a certain extent for purely tactical reasons, so as to be able to lay claim to property and to subsidies from all-party funds to maintain its large apparatus. And also in order not to alienate those who do not intend to hand in their CPSU membership cards. Calling a spade a spade, let me say that a new party has really been created in Estonia. We have nothing against social democrats, they are entitled to take up their place in a multiparty system, but why resort to such slyness and tactically selfish camouflage?

Our main difference lies in attitudes toward state building. Our Communist Party has unambiguously declared that its has stood and will stand for preserving the Soviet Union's integrity and for signing the new Union Treaty. But the documents of the autonomous Estonian Communist Party's January congress proclaim its basic goal to be the restoration of an independent state of Estonia (read: a bourgeois state) outside the Soviet Union.

Yes, we are also in favor of a sovereign Estonian state, but as part of a multinational Union on the basis of the new Union Treaty. This is why we advocated holding the 17 March referendum. Incidentally, we also participated in the 3 March republican referendum but only in order to say a firm "No" to this entire unscrupulous game being played in our republic allegedly on behalf of the Estonian people.

[Shirokov] One of the results of the Communist Party's split was that about 60,000 Communists left the party ranks prior to, and especially after, its 20th congress. Is this not due to the fact that most of them are disappointed in the communist movement itself?

[Annus] Recently some people have been declaring that the entire 70-years long path traversed by the Estonian Communist Party is an endless chain of mistakes and even crimes against the Estonian people. But no matter how frenzied our opponents on the right and the left

might get, they will never succeed in refuting the fact that the history of the Estonian Communist Party's activity goes back to the Estonian bolshevik organization of the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party, which came to life early in the 20th century on the territory of today's Kalininskiy Rayon in Tallinn City. Under the bolshevik party's leadership, Estonia's working people played an active part in three revolutions and made their contribution to the overthrow of tsarism and the victory of October. Estonia's statehood itself would have been impossible without this victory. Credit for the recognition of the first Estonian Republic belongs to none other but V.I. Lenin, whose monuments are nowadays so successfully opposed by newfound heralds of the preeminence of the nation.

Socialism on Estonian soil is not something alien, something imported from outside, as its ill-intentioned and prejudiced critics are now vainly trying to prove. The restoration of Soviet power 50 years ago was the logical outcome of an historical process, while Estonia's incorporation in the USSR was the result of a free expression of the Estonian working people's will.

The Estonian Communist Party's history certainly contains bitter and tragic pages as well. We condemn the crimes of Stalin's times and the deformations in subsequent years. But it would a deviation from historical truth to shift responsibility for this on the entire party and all generations of Communists. Those who are today trying to create a total guilt complex among us could be reminded that it was the Communist Party that headed our people's heroic struggle against fascism. Nobody should forget the sacrifices made by the "party of firing squad victims."

Today we act in conditions of sharply exacerbating economic and political crisis, in an atmosphere of mighty attacks by anticommunist and anti-Soviet forces against the party and socialism. It is all the more important to preserve and restore rayon and primary party organizations as united, integral, and living organisms. Our Estonian Communist Party has largely succeeded in this. Its ranks comprise more than 30,000 Communists and it has 13 actively functioning city, rayon, and ward committees, party committees, and hundreds of primary party organizations.

It is already obvious today that democracy, which is such a favorite topic for verbal outpourings by People's Front leaders, is turning into an increasingly harsh and sophisticated dictatorship. As for the endless talk about "depoliticization," it pursues just a single goal: To repoliticize society and labor collectives and, for this purpose, it is extremely necessary for our opponents to sweep the Communist Party out of their way.

Communists voluntarily renounced their monopoly of power and advocated a multiparty system, but this does not mean that they have abandoned all intentions of participating in the management of the republic's economic and social life. We, insofar as we are supported by a sizeable proportion of society, are entitled to demand participation in the work of government organizations; and we advocate the creation of a coalition government which would comprise not just the People's Front but also Communists, independent democrats, "Vaba Eesti" ("Free Estonia"), the "Greens," the Christian democratic movements, and so on. Only this will make civic accord, peace, and society's consolidation possible.

[Shirokov] It is not easy to regain real influence. That requires a specific action program in which people would believe, a program which people would understand. Does the Estonian Communist Party have such a program?

[Annus] A specific action program for extrication from the crisis was adopted at our 21st congress. The Estonian Communist Party must become the party of humane democratic socialism and working people's social protection. We intend to strive to ensure that all are equal before the law and all citizens—regardless of nationality—have access to any state and public office. The Communists insist on nationwide discussion of draft legislative acts affecting the vital interests of the republic's residents. Advocating social protection for working people and low-income strata, we demand material compensation for the population in connection with the rising prices for goods and services and a flexible system for indexation of the population's money incomes geared to price rises.

At the 21st congress we elaborated proposals to stabilize the economic situation in Estonia. They assert that the republic's working people are without any long-term prospects. There are steadily growing fears that, in the conditions of economic crisis and transition to the market, even today's modest social guarantees might get lost. Incidentally, seeing that three of the four authors of the widely publicized IME ("Estonian Self-Management") program now actually admit that this was just a political document, how can the government deceive the people by claiming that it has a realistic economic program for boosting the prosperity of the republic's residents?

Forces which find society's democratic development unacceptable will strive for power in the conditions of economic chaos. As a matter of fact, they are already subversively preparing for this. "Kaitselijta" and "Kodukaitse" detachments are being set up whose subunits—according to information received—engage not only in physical training but also in ideological work. There can be no doubt about its orientation.

Strategically, the Estonian Communist Party advocates transition to market relations, creation of conditions for the functioning and development of all forms of ownership and entrepreneurship, elaboration of antimonopoly laws, application of a system of strict ecological normatives, and so on. All this must be implemented under state regulation and control. The interests of labor collectives should be paramount during the destatization of

enterprises. It is impermissible to create private ownership by either returning property to its former owners or their heirs or by selling it to private individuals.

To sum up, we have elaborated an economic and social strategy. Now it is necessary to persistently and consistently give it a real content.

[Shirokov] Given that the Estonian Communist Party is split and resignations from the party continue, is it not premature to count on regaining influence in society and, therefore, on a realistic policy?

[Annus] Now that separation has occurred and our "wing" of the Estonian Communist Party has firmly and unambiguously declared its organizational and ideological unity with the CPSU, the period of uncertainty and disorder is over. This has had a favorable effect on the state of mind not only of Communists but also of nonparty people, of those who are inclined toward the socialist choice. Yes, the outflow from party ranks continues, but not as intensively. Furthermore, the Communist Party is now being joined by those who were unwilling to do so earlier in case they were suspected of careerist motivations. Today the party is being joined by honest and decent people who do not expect privileges or greater personal prestige.

Naturally, only by overcoming its internal differences will the party be able to extricate itself from the crisis and become a political force capable of claiming leadership positions. This necessitates recreating the Estonian Communist Party's uniform organizational structure, strengthening party discipline, working actively not only in labor collectives but also in territorial organizations, creating an alliance with democratic social organizations and movements, struggling for mandates at elections to organs of power, and starting to create party mass media.

No task today is more important than the struggle for the masses. The questions of political instruction of Communists and young aktiv members, of promptly supplying primary party organizations with the latest information, are exceptionally acute. It is necessary to create economic commissions and expert groups for various questions, to appraise draft laws and elaborate alternative versions, to get young people involved in this work. Let us bear in mind that we are not starting from scratch—we have behind us the experience and gains of several generations of Estonian Communists, whose bright guiding star were the socialist ideals.

Swedish Party Leader on Talks With Savisaar

PM0504104491 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 3 Apr 91 p 11

[Kaa Eneberg report: "Center Party Promises Conference On Baltic Region"]

[Text] Tallinn—Swedish Center Party leader Olof Johansson yesterday promised Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar that he will start pressing for an international conference on the future of the Baltic region.

The Baltics have long proposed that such a conference be held until the Baltic republics gain places in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Olof Johansson, who is visiting Estonia and Leningrad for a few days to study environmental problems, said after his talks in the government building on Toompea Hill that the conference and its chances of success were discussed in detail with Prime Minister Savisaar.

The Center Party leader also indicated he, and hopefully the other nonsocialist party leaders, will give prominence to the Baltic question in the coming Swedish election campaign.

An initiative for such a conference could be discussed at a meeting which the Center Party leader is looking forward to having with Moderate Coalition Party leader Carl Bildt and Liberal People's Party leader Bengt Westerberg on his return. He issued the invitation to such a meeting at Easter.

In talks with Estonia's new environment minister, Tonis Kaasik, Olof Johansson also discussed the Baltics' efforts to join the special commission working to clean up the Baltic Sea.

A meeting is to be held in Stockholm in May, and Kaasik, who recently met with Environment Minister Birgitta Dahl in Stockholm, said that he is hoping for an invitation to the conference, despite the fact that the Baltic republics do not have their own representatives in this group.

The Estonians also voiced concern about the possibility of maintaining air and sea communications with Sweden. Passenger numbers have decreased, and sea traffic in particular is facing serious economic problems.

The Center Party leader takes the view that the Swedish Government should give economic guarantees so that this important traffic—a lifeline to the West—is maintained.

U.S. Senators Satisfied With Visit to Latvia

LD0404085691 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1000 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Half an hour ago a news conference ended at the Supreme Council, arranged by the U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator David Boren, leader of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. During the news conference the senators expressed their satisfaction with the visit to Latvia and their readiness to extend links between the United States and the peoples of Latvia. It was stressed that the United States has never recognized the incorporation of the Baltic states, including Latvia, into the Soviet Union.

In the longer term it is intended to open a cultural and information center in Riga, which in the initial stage could serve as a singular bridge between Latvia and the United States.

Senator Boren stressed that the Soviet Union must as soon as possible start talks with the Baltic states on restoring their real sovereignty. Delaying or returning to a policy of repression will not do either side any good. In the afternoon a meeting is envisaged between the delegation of U.S. senators and Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis, and in the evening the delegation will leave by air for Washington.

Latvia's Rubiks Calls for Preserving USSR

LD0404145391 Moscow TASS in English 1310 GMT 4 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga April 4 TASS—Latvian Communists leader and member of the Soviet Communist Party Politburo Alfred Rubiks called for the signing of a Union treaty as soon as possible, describing the situation in the USSR as critical.

In an interview with the party newspapers TSINJA and SOVIET LATVIA, he said that "nobody, including the Soviet president, can project how events will develop."

Asked about prospects for Latvia's secession from the USSR, Rubiks described this move as an impasse, "doom for those who are masterminding it". Any changes in the map of the Soviet Union will be the subject of attention for the entire world community, Rubiks believes.

He did not rule out the prospect of outside military interference "to put under guard" nuclear power stations and Soviet nuclear weapons in case the process of disintegration continued. "It is difficult to imagine what could happen then," Rubiks said.

Rubiks firmly believes that each day of procrastination in signing the Union treaty works against stabilisation in the country. "If the present situation when the majority of the Soviet citizens favoured maintaining the Union as an integral entity is not made use of now and the treaty is not concluded, one may state that the opinion of the people was ignored," Rubiks said.

In evaluating the course of seceding from the USSR, which is being pursued by the Baltic republics' leaders, Rubiks stressed that the quest for a third compromise solution—not to insist for the present on immediate secession—was not ruled out. Otherwise, republics would need to make payments to the Union in world prices and they do not have funds for this.

Rubiks was elected first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee a year ago. He gives an upbeat assessment of the present situation in the republican party organisation: "We have managed to keep the Latvian Communist Party to its principles in an exceptionally difficult situation and to prevent the party from splitting up. All district and city party committees and 75 per cent of primary organisations are operating."

Latvia, Russia Sign Industrial Agreement

LD0204180491 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 0430 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] To realize the Latvian-Russian interstate treaty for 1991, a protocol has been signed on exchange of goods and products between the two states for 1991. Russia will provide Latvia with about 50 kinds of products, mainly raw materials for industrial production. In return, Latvia will supply about 25 kinds of consumer goods, technological equipment and so forth. Observers note that this treaty is of both economic and political significance.

Further on Union Vilnius School 'Seizure'

Under DOSAAF 'Protection'

LD0904210291 Moscow TASS in English 2032 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius April 9 TASS—This morning "The military from the Soviet Army seized the Vilnius Technical Sports School", Lithuanian parliament member Algimantas Norvilas told the republican parliament session.

For his part, Colonel Nikolai Fomenko, deputy chairman of the republican central committee of the voluntary society for assisting the Army, Air Force and the Navy, known for its Russian acronym DOSAAF, told TASS that the school had been "taken under protection" because it "is the property of the USSR Armed Forces and DOSAAF".

Previously the school trained vehicle drivers for service in the Army and for the needs of the economy. Last year the school "was misappropriated by republican agencies", Fomenko said.

Norvilas believes, however, that the Technical Sports School "is the property of the Lithuanian Republic". He described the actions of representatives of the Armed Forces as an "attempt to torpedo talks that are about to begin between Lithuania and the central government.

Landsbergis Comments; 'Firm Protest'

LD0904210991 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In commenting on this fact, Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis noted: We will learn immediately the extent of the dimension and significance of this provocation, from the reaction of the Soviet Union leadership. If no orders are

issued from Moscow, for the soldiers to withdraw immediately, we will think a new escalation of actions is starting against Lithuania. It may be linked with the planned visit to Japan by USSR President Gorbachev, since the heaviest blows can be delivered precisely during his absence, or possibly without his knowledge.

Another possible version could be that of efforts by the conservative CPSU and military forces to torpedo the negotiations beginning between Lithuania and the Soviet Union.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Lithuania today issued a firm protest to the Foreign Ministry of the Soviet Union in connection with the Soviet Union Army's willful actions in Vilnius.

Lithuanian Sajudis To Lead Picket at CPSU

LD1004101191 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 0830 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Summary] It was announced that people were invited by the Lithuanian Sajudis to protest at the Lithuanian CPSU Central Committee building in protest against willful acts by the Soviet troops in Lithuania. The protest is to take place at 1030 GMT today.

More on Pugo, Lithuania's Vaisvila Meeting

PM0404140991 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 20 Mar 91 p 1

[ELTA report: "Meeting in Moscow"]

[Text] Zigmas Vaisvila, deputy premier of the Lithuanian Republic, met USSR Minister of Internal Affairs Boris Pugo in Moscow a few days ago. The conversation, which lasted more than two hours, was attended by E. Bickauskas, permanent representative of the Lithuanian Republic's Government in Moscow, and N. Demidov, USSR deputy minister of internal affairs. They discussed problems of mutual relations between the Lithuanian Republic MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the USSR MVD, as well as quite a few specific questions whose solution requires accord and good will between the two sides: About the activity of the USSR MVD Special Purpose Militia Detachment, the return of seized weapons, material and technical support services, payments of pensions, passports for foreign travel, ways and means for possible and necessary cooperation, and return of captured Vilnius buildings. The sides agreed that the situation—with the USSR MVD controlling the Lithuanian Republic's television and radio buildings and television tower captured by the Soviet Army—is abnormal. There was an exchange of opinions on possible ways of solving this question.

During the discussion of questions of cooperation between the Lithuanian Republic MVD and the USSR MVD, B. Pugo emphasized that the creation of alternative militia structures in Lithuania (similar to the situation in the prosecutor's office) is intolerable and undesirable for both Lithuania and the USSR.

Further on Vagnorius 20 Mar News Conference

PM0404152791 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 22 Mar 91 p 2

[Report by A. Gasyunene: "Lithuania's Budget and the Prices; Notes From a News Conference"]

[Text] The republican government's traditional news conference on 20 March was held right after a working session which lasted several hours. Premier G. Vagnorius, Finance Minister E. Kunyavichene, and Social Protection Minister A. Dobravolskas arrived for the meeting with journalists straight from the debate.

The elaboration of Lithuania's budget for 1991 is one of the key issues today. Yes, the year's first quarter is almost over and the budget has not yet been put together. And this fact confirms, more graphically than anything else, the full depth of the economic crisis and the complexity of the initial steps toward a market economy.

E. Kunyavichene said that the republic's budget deficit in January amounted to 1.5 billion rubles, due to the disparity between purchasing, wholesale, and retail prices. For the third month running, financial experts have been trying to regulate revenues and expenditures so as to enable the republic to live within its means, on what it earns, rather than in debt and without a thought for tomorrow. The minister emphasized that the budget's elaboration today is an attempt to rule out the administrative edict methods, when funds were collected from some and distributed among others.

There are two facts confirming how difficult this is. Approximately one-half of the 1991 budget comprises subsidies and compensation payments for the production and consumption of foodstuffs. The government sitting adopted a decision to raise meat and milk prices 25 percent. If this measure is abandoned and prices are frozen, there will be an inevitable cutback in the production of basic foodstuffs which are already in short supply. The inevitable consequence will be a speculative growth of meat and milk prices.

The premier announced that the new prices will begin operation in Lithuania 26 March. This is the first stage along the path to a market economy, when prices for a series of goods will be regulated and contained within ceilings. For the time being, it would be impossible to manage without this enforced administrative management. The commodity mass sold in the republic must correspond with the volume of wages. This is a sign of concern for our own market where, once it is supplied, it will be possible to trade and exchange products on mutually advantageous terms, primarily ensuring the production of the necessary raw materials.

Journalists raised the question of the method to compensate for dearer children's goods, comparing the republican way of producing and selling these articles at socially low prices with the Union way, which provides for annual payments per child in the family according to the child's age. The very fact that the question was raised indicates that there are divergent opinions on this issue, and practice alone will prove which way is best suited to families' interests. In Minister A. Dobravolskas' opinion, we will have to seriously amend the actual compensation mechanism, especially since it has been elaborated and is being applied for the first time.

Answering a question about ties with the USSR Government and the prospects for contacts with Premier V. Pavlov, G. Vagnorius said that economically Lithuania is closely tied to the Union, hence the contacts and coordination of work with Union organs on questions where there are many interests in common. But the capture of a series of facilities in Lithuania by armed force today hampers a closer cooperation and personal meetings.

All recent meetings and discussions, and not just those on the economy, have touched upon the problem of returning property to its former owners. These questions are especially acute on the eve of the draft law's parliamentary discussion, which is scheduled for the next few days. G. Vagnorius emphasized that the problem is very complex and, while restoring justice for some people, it is impossible to let others suffer.

The news conference also produced questions about the privatization of state property, the indexation of deposits with the Savings Bank, the resumption of apartment sales and what funds will be used for their acquisition by the majority who live from payday to payday, and the compensation and indexation of minimum living standards in relation to rising prices and inflation. On the whole, it was emphasized at the news conference, the launch of price reforms will show whether we will manage to get at least one step closer to a civilized correlation of purchasing, wholesale, and retail prices so as to create incentives for boosting commodity output and attacking shortages.

The premier's adviser, A. Bocharovas, chaired the news conference.

European Legislators Discuss Aid to Lithuania

PM0504115191 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 23 Mar 91 p 1

[Report by ELTA correspondent: "European Parliament Delegation in Lithuania"]

[Excerpts] Vilnius, 21 Mar—A delegation of the European Parliament headed by its vice president, Siegbert Alber, arrived in Vilnius yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

This morning the delegation was received by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet. [passage omitted]

The delegation was also met today by Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius.

At a meeting held at the Supreme Soviet today between Lithuanian Health Minister Juozas Oleksas and the coordinators of aid to Lithuania it was noted that the European Parliament is now discussing the question of the possibility of aid being granted to Lithuania. The delegation members wanted to know what kind of aid was most needed by our health care system. The European Parliament delegation, representing Germany, Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands, and various political parties in those countries then met with representatives of political parties, faiths, and ethnic communities.

The visitors held a press conference at the Supreme Soviet in the evening.

RSFSR

Foreign Minister Kozyrev on China, Japan Talks

PM0904155891 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 91 p 5

[Interview with Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic foreign minister, by A. Platkovskiy; place, date of interview not given; first paragraph is introduction: "The Union and Russia on the 'Silk Road'"]

[Text] In Tokyo and Beijing, diplomats from two departments—that of the Union and that of the Russian Federation—have been liaising with each other. RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev tells us how this came about.

[Platkovskiy] It looks as though your working visits to Japan and China were not quite of the usual kind: You were there for the first time as leader of the Russian Foreign Ministry and you had occasion to work together with USSR Foreign Minister A.A. Bessmertnykh...

[Kozyrev] I'll put it like this: We need to go in for this "unusual practice" more often. And this is not easy, of course. A few years ago, when I was working at the central Foreign Ministry, it did not occur to me to coordinate various positions with the republics. At that time we lived in a unitary state. The process of transforming this state is currently under way. In my view, this is a concrete expression of the democratization of society. From this the need arose to work out new formats for relations. We embarked on the task not without arguments or differences of opinion. However, the end result, it seems to me, shows that in both the highest Union structures and in the Russian Federation leadership there is an understanding that it is necessary to give priority to national and state interests, and not to regard ambitions or claims to a monopoly as being of

paramount importance. In relation to Japan and China, these interests are basically inseparable from Russia's. These two great Asiatic powers are first and foremost neighbors of Russia. We have been living side by side with them for centuries and will continue to live with them forever. Therefore we came out with a united position at the talks we have just had. I consider this a major achievement: Our partners saw before them not some sort of "ex-power" embroiled in chaos, but a strong, reliable partner.

[Platkovskiy] How, in your view, did Tokyo and Beijing view this partnership?

[Kozyrev] It seems to me that the reaction was positive. Elementary realism would lead to such a reaction. Although of course there are in this country hotheads, for instance, who would be quite willing to play the foreign card in an internal political struggle. This is shortsighted and unrealistic. And abroad, I note, we can also observe attempts to play the "Russian card" against the Union, for example, or vice versa—to try to wring out some concessions. All the same, I think that serious politicians are banking on an honest policy.

[Platkovskiy] What is your assessment of the results of the talks you had in Japan and China?

[Kozyrev] As regards Tokyo, the main thing for the Japanese side remained the question of the "northern territories." Maybe this question has become exacerbated to an exaggerated degree, but one way or another it is brought up in every sphere. Therefore we worked in conjunction with Union structures, took all the factors into consideration, and came up with a joint position. It is already partially known and will be developed further during the USSR president's upcoming visit to Tokyo. I'm not going to jump the gun. I will only say that for today this is the only possible realistic position. It completely sweeps aside any notion of a "sale" of the islands as being totally unacceptable. But it has also been freed from the "reinforced concrete" of former times when our diplomacy was at the "Mister Nyet" level, so to speak.

At the Beijing talks Union diplomacy was also underpinned by that of the Russian Federation. Sino-Soviet relations are being supplemented by the growing role of Russia. A large stretch of the Sino-Soviet border runs through Russian territory. For instance, an understanding was reached on the need to extend border trade and complete work on defining the border more clearly in the Russian sector. The question of relaxing the military presence along the border was raised.

[Platkovskiy] At the Beijing talks, considerable attention was paid to the upcoming visit to Moscow of Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. What is Russia's position in relation to this?

[Kozyrev] I understand where your question is leading. Some people might see a certain delicate position here. I will explain our approach. We are dealing in realities. And today's reality is such that the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee is the highest state leader, since the party and the state are indivisible in China. That country is our most important partner. I think the Russian Federation leadership will proceed from precisely this basis. As regards my personal attitude, then of course my position is closer to everything that meets international standards of human rights and democratic processes in any country.

Moscow Unions Chief Supports Striking Miners

LD0904141291 Moscow TASS in English 1337 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—"The Moscow federation of trade unions supports economic demands by striking miners and demands that Soviet and Russian parliaments and Governments take effective measures to resolve the situation," Federation Chairman Mikhail Shmakov told TASS.

"The federation has sent 50,000 roubles to strikers' families," he said.

Shmakov was speaking in the run up to trade union actions to demand better living conditions scheduled for May 1.

Muscovites will hold a mass manifestation and a rally in Red Square on May 1. The federation, uniting some six million workers, initiated the action.

"Perestroika's seventh spring, alas, did not bring joy and festive mood to the Soviet people," Shmakov said.

Continuing economic disintegration, aggravated by a lack of a clear-cut programme to take the country out of economic crisis hits low income families hardest," he said.

"Our federation calls on Moscow workers to mark May 1 by active actions. Say 'no' to skyrocketing prices, looming unemployment and enslaving taxation policy. Demonstrate trade union readiness to defend people's rights for worthy life," he said.

In conditions of approaching market relations, the federation has devised a package of measures to protect workers. It was approved by most member-organisations.

The federation demanded that the Soviet and Russian parliaments pass bills on income indexation.

People should be compensated from money raised from price hikes and not from enterprises' profits, it said.

The five per cent sales tax should be scrapped and Moscow city authorities should publish data on subsistence minimums in the city, it said.

The federation will press on with its demand in full accordance with the Soviet law "on collective labour disputes" and could, as a measure of last resort, stage a city-wide warning strike, Shmakov said.

Further on Extraordinary Third RSFSR Congress

Anticrisis Resolution Published

PM0904134391 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 9 Apr 91 First Edition pp 1,2

[Resolution signed by B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, in Moscow on 4 April: "Congress of Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic People's Deputies Resolution on the Political and Socioeconomic Situation in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and Measures To Resolve the Crisis"]

[Text] Having listened to and discussed the report by B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, "On the Political and Socioeconomic Situation in the RSFSR and Measures To Resolve the Crisis" and the companion reports by M.L. Zakharov and V.B. Isakov, members of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Third (Extraordinary) Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies notes that the activities of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet were basically geared to the implementation of the principles of the state sovereignty of the Russian Federation, the creation of a legal basis for conducting economic reform and social protection of the republic's citizens in conditions of the transition to market relations, and the formation of fundamentally new interrepublic treaty relations in the political and socioeconomic spheres.

The situation in the Russian Federation remains complex. The crisis processes affecting all aspects of political and socioeconomic life are deepening. The economy is becoming increasingly disorganized, economic links between regions and enterprises are being destroyed, national income is dwindling, and output is declining in most national economic sectors. Supplies of food and industrial goods are in a critical state, social programs are not being fulfilled, inflationary processes are intensifying, and the population's living standard is falling. The ecological crisis is growing.

The decisions of the Second (Extraordinary) Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies on the social development of the countryside and establishment of priority for the agro-industrial complex have not been backed up by practical action. The new RSFSR Land Code has not been adopted, and the land reform is not being properly conducted. The adopted programs have not been provided with the relevant state finance and requisite material and technical resources. Commissioning of housing, schools, hospitals, and cultural institutions has been reduced in the republic.

The significant and uncontrolled growth of prices of products and services for the countryside is having a ruinous effect on the economy of the agro-industrial complex. The supply of agricultural machinery, equipment, and spare parts for the timely implementation of spring field work is badly organized.

The present socioeconomic situation in the republic is part of the profound political and economic crisis in the USSR as a whole. Its development has been adversely affected by a number of inconsistent and contradictory decisions by Union and republic governments. When laws have been adopted the mechanisms to introduce them are in frequent cases not devised, which is the main reason for the nonimplementation of laws. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR Council of Ministers have been impossibly slow to elaborate a package of draft laws and programs to eliminate the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster in the RSFSR.

Efficient legal mechanisms have not yet been established for collaboration between RSFSR and USSR organs and within the Russian Federation, and legal nihilism is in evidence.

The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR Council of Ministers have failed to ensure in full accordance with the decisions of the First and Second (Extraordinary) Congresses of RSFSR People's Deputies the implementation of resolutions on the elaboration of a draft RSFSR Constitution and program for the stabilization of the economy and transition to market relations.

The most important reasons for the political and economic crisis are the spiritual impoverishment of society and the legacy of ideological monopolism. For many years priority development of culture, science, education, and public health has merely been a slogan.

The Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies anxiously acknowledges that the political situation in the republic and the country is extremely bad and socioeconomic transformations are practically impossible without the fulfillment of a number of political conditions.

The Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies resolves that:

1. It be noted that the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and its organs, the RSFSR Council of Ministers, and local organs of power and government have failed to make full use of the powers granted to them to stabilize the political and socioeconomic situation in the RSFSR, improve Russians' lives, and resolve the crisis and have been unable, in the present conditions, to ensure the practical implementation of RSFSR state sovereignty. There are serious shortcomings in the implementation of a number of decisions by Congresses of RSFSR People's Deputies.

2. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet, with the participation of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, is to continue the preparation and adopt in the first half of 1981 the legislative acts that are needed to ensure the implementation of the program for the stabilization of the economy and transition to market relations. Special

attention is to be paid to the elaboration of the mechanism for the implementation of legislative acts and organization of the monitoring of their implementation.

3. The RSFSR Council of Ministers is to be instructed:
to finalize the program for the stabilization of the economy and transition to market relations in the light of proposals and observations made at the Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies and also in the light of the legislative acts adopted by the Congresses of RSFSR People's Deputies and RSFSR Supreme Soviet, carry out a comprehensive appraisal of it, and submit it within a month for approval by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet;
to elaborate an emergency republic budget and submit it for approval by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet;
in the sphere of currency policy, in collaboration with the USSR Cabinet of Ministers, to set up an RSFSR Foreign Trade Bank gold currency reserve and elaborate a mechanism and adopt specific measures to increase producers' commitment to exporting products.

4. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR Council of Ministers are to examine demands by representatives of the strike movement and adopt immediate measures to regulate conflict situations that have occurred.

5. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR Council of Ministers are to:
ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Second (Extraordinary) Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies on the rebirth of the Russian countryside and improvement of food supplies for the republic's populace;
ensure in conjunction with the Supreme Soviets of the republics in the RSFSR and local soviets and their executive organs the solution of land reform tasks laid down by laws and by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet;
ensure within the allotted time the allocation of plots of land to all RSFSR citizens who want them for peasant (owner or tenant) farms, fruit growing, truck gardening, and construction of personal houses;
envisage, when the RSFSR emergency budget for 1991 and the budgets for subsequent years are being elaborated, a system of state financial support for the agro-industrial complex, allocating at least 15 percent of the RSFSR's national income for this purpose annually;
provide compensation for agriculture for the extra expenditure in connection with the growth of wholesale prices of material and technical resources, the cost of capital construction, and rates for services—expenditure that is not envisaged in the purchase prices for agricultural products introduced on 1 January 1991;
create a republic agricultural bank and tackle questions of charging interest on the remaining long-term and short-term loans taken out by the agro-industrial complex before January 1991 at the rate that operated before January 1991;
immediately elaborate a "Bread for Russia" state program and a range of measures to develop livestock raising and the food and processing sectors of industry.

6. The RSFSR Council of Ministers is to elaborate a pricing mechanism based on the protection of badly off strata of the population; establish a republic social protection fund and ensure the establishment of similar funds locally; continue the pension reform in the republic on the basis of the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR."

7. At its third session the RSFSR Supreme Soviet is to examine and approve an RSFSR state ecological program and legislative acts ensuring its implementation.

8. All political parties, movements, and other public associations are called upon to arrange a constructive dialogue and consolidate around the topical tasks of the stabilization of the situation in the republic and the country and resolution of the crisis.

9. By the next Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies the RSFSR Supreme Soviet is to prepare and adopt RSFSR laws on the legal rules for a state of emergency and national disaster areas and on the RSFSR Constitutional Court, and also prepare and submit for examination by the next Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies draft RSFSR laws "On Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Constitution (Basic Law)," envisaging the introduction of the post of RSFSR president, and on the procedure for electing the RSFSR president.

10. Unconstitutional attempts to use the USSR Armed Forces in the solution of political and economic questions are to be seen as impermissible.

11. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Commission are to ensure implementation of the instruction of the first Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies on the preparation of a draft new RSFSR Constitution.

12. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet is to adopt an RSFSR law on the procedure for recalling an RSFSR people's deputy.

13. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR Council of Ministers are to provide conditions for the implementation of citizens' and organizations' constitutional right to obtain reliable information and for the demonopolization of the functions and free development of the media.

It is to be proposed to the USSR Supreme Soviet and USSR president that immediate measures be adopted to ensure RSFSR state sovereignty in the sphere of information and formation of the material base of republic mass media.

14. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet is to:
draw up a state program for the social protection of people and create conditions for their spiritual and moral development, for free use of initiative, for creative freedom and development of ethnic culture, and for every person to have the right to choose the form, extent, and program of education;
establish real economic priority and system of rational taxation for the cultural sphere;

elaborate and adopt RSFSR laws geared to the protection of the socioeconomic interests of young people and the "Children of Russia" program, envisaging specific funding for it.

15. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR Council of Ministers are to focus efforts on the organization of the certain fulfillment of the decisions of Congresses of RSFSR People's Deputies and RSFSR laws. RSFSR Supreme Soviet accountability reports on the implementation of earlier decisions are to become part of the work practice of Congresses of RSFSR People's Deputies.

The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR Council of Ministers are to be instructed to elaborate and adopt additional measures to ensure effective work by RSFSR people's deputies and ensure that they are promptly provided with all the requisite RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR Council of Ministers materials and documents.

16. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet is to be instructed to lay down in the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Standing Orders a procedure for forming delegations to conduct interrepublic and international talks.

17. Regular reports by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet chairman and RSFSR Council of Ministers chairman on the political and socioeconomic situation in the republic are to be part of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet's work practice.
[Signed] B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet
The Kremlin, Moscow, 4 April 1991

PRAVDA Views Congress

PM0904143791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 91 Second Edition p 2

[Report by PRAVDA political observer Viktor Shirokov: "Echo of the Russian Congress; Russian Legislators at Their 'Latest Extraordinary' Congress Found Themselves on the Brink of a Fatal Irreversible Split But Were Able To Finally Find a Compromise"]

[Text] These difficult congress days remind me of a set of capacitor wafers whose "electrical" charge rose with every hour of the Russian parliament's work. The insulation padding of common sense and moderation seemed at times to be on the point of rupturing, leaving the ultrahigh tension to be discharged as destructive lightning. Fortunately, that did not happen. Toward the last few days of the congress' work people's deputies of every political and social "stripe"—with a small exception—realized that the future of Russia and its peoples is beyond any ideological passions and transferred the frenzied energy of confrontation to the quest for constructive compromises and solutions.

It is worthy of note that both opposing sides were strikingly unanimous in assessing the results of the congress. The "Communists of Russia" and B. Yeltsin held their news conferences on the last day. Answering journalists' questions as to what it had and had not proved possible to achieve, I. Bratishchev, one of the leaders of the Communist legislative group, said firmly:

"It proved possible to do everything we had planned. Some people wanted to show the Union and Russia that the congress was convened to no avail. However, that is not the case. We succeeded in achieving the main thing—adopting a resolution on stabilizing the socioeconomic situation in the republic and mapping out a number of anticrisis measures."

For his part B. Yeltsin answered a similar question as follows:

"The congress was fairly constructive."

However, it would have been considered blatant utopia to predict this kind of finale, particularly on the first day of the congress. Remember that the Russian forum began on a bleak, stormy note. Demonstrations and rallies "in support of Yeltsin" scheduled for the working day of 28 March brought the situation to a critical level. Although the ultrademocratic press to this day claims that everything might have gone quite peacefully, this hypothesis is nothing more than conjecture aired by an ostrich with its head buried in the sand. I saw a fanatical glint in the eyes of those people listening to the speeches delivered in Manege Square by the organizers of the latest rally and heard them roar in unison, picking up any—sometimes even highly meaningless—slogans. One careless word by another "democratic" orator, one spark and the mob was ready to agree to any assault. Although, admittedly, it is unpleasant and certainly unacceptable to see troops on the streets of Moscow.

"Hard-line" democrats were not long in taking advantage of this on the day the congress opened. A string of hysterical, over-the-top statements regarding the impossibility of working "under the barrel of a submachine gun" and "in a state of siege," statements saying that the "congress has been arrested," and so on resounded from the microphones. USSR People's Deputy A. Denisov aptly commented: "I cannot rid myself of the feeling that the people who have produced all manner of disturbances now are in the grip of some inferiority complex, whereby they are trying to compensate for their lack of self-confidence by yelling." Be that as it may, the deputies with the "complex" gained the upper hand and the congress broke off its work after a short debate on the agenda.

That was one of the first awkward situations, and I know that many Russian parliamentarians did not sleep that alarming night. However, early in the morning the fever abated, the troops went home, and the congress did not move to Leningrad or Geneva to continue its work there, as some deputies had assumed.

Admittedly, during the first days of the congress' work there were repeated attempts to play the "rally card" and provoke another barrage of duels at the microphone, but

life itself and the voters' insistent demands urged deputies to continue their practical work. Although subsequently interminable procedural holdups sometimes even reduced us accredited journalists to despair.

I by no means think that any deputies deliberately tried to spin out the congress or break off its work. It is just that so many "burning" problems and so many crisis phenomena have accumulated in Russia that the people's chosen representatives could not help but pour out all these troubles and calamities, all their grief and indignation at the lofty forum. That is why they strained to reach the microphones and that is also why they put what seemed to be an innumerable number of highly pressing questions on the agenda. Nonetheless most of them heeded reasonable reminders that it would soon be the sowing season, the situation in the country was tense, and now was not the time to drag out the congress with an "elastic" agenda.

They confined themselves to the most important things which the conciliation commission also cited—discussing the political and socioeconomic situation in the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], steps to escape from the crisis, the national-state system in the RSFSR (federative treaty), and the Union treaty.

As is well known, the extraordinary Congress of Russian People's Deputies was convened on the demand of more than 250 legislators alarmed at the incessant confrontation, the increase in crisis phenomena in the economy, and the social atmosphere. The "democrat team" and B. Yeltsin himself saw this as a direct challenge to themselves and declared publicly that it was it was not the right time for a congress. The political statement issued by six members of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and deputy chairmen were also regarded as vile "political ploys" and outright betrayal of the "cause of democracy." During the first half of the congress this theme was brought out from time to time at sittings with the irritating frequency of a stuck phonograph record. However, I must admit that the authors of the statement themselves and representatives of the "Russia" and "Communists of Russia" deputies' groups did not let this pass, they struck back blow for blow. For this reason the congress was occasionally reminiscent of Dr. Dolittle's marvelous pushme-pullyou with its two heads, incapable of getting moving due to conflicting thoughts and aspirations.

Today, in retrospect, it is hardly worth trying to identify who sought to hold the congress. The main thing is that it was held at a highly opportune moment—by the time it opened the situation in the Union and in Russia had become extremely explosive. The socioeconomic situation, its catastrophic "overheating," and the threat of universal famine all required immediate analysis by the republic's supreme organ of power and an emergency quest for ways to escape from the crisis. In this context at the closing press conference B. Yeltsin was himself forced to acknowledge that the congress was a timely event.

The fact that the theme of a "Communist conspiracy" was constantly voiced from the rostrum and from the microphones is another matter.

In order to return the parliament to constructive work, I. Polozkov, first secretary of the Russian Communist Party Central Committee, said in blunt unequivocal terms that now is not the time to change the leadership, the members of the Presidium, or any other organs.

This statement, which came as a surprise to many people, returned deputies to their practical, successful work. B. Yeltsin's report and the coreports delivered by M. Zakharov and V. Isakov, plus amendments to the resolution, were discussed without excessive unnecessary nerviness.

The resolution adopted by the Congress of Russian People's Deputies "On the Political and Socioeconomic Situation in the RSFSR and Measures To Escape from the Crisis" is published in the press.

Despite the pretentious nature of some of the paragraphs it enshrines more or less concrete programs to stabilize the economy, switch to market relations, and boost producers' interest in increasing production. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet and the republic's Council of Ministers have been instructed to examine the demands made by strike committees' representatives and take urgent steps to settle conflict situations. Measures to revive the Russian countryside, provide impoverished strata of the population with social protection, and so on have been outlined. Be that as it may, this resolution can be considered the first approximation to real actions and decisions which have long been awaited from republic structures of authority—structures that over the last few months have been carried away in earnest by political battles.

The vote on this resolution went comparatively smoothly. However, deputies did not succeed in moving on to the next item on the agenda. With his characteristic unpredictability, B. Yeltsin took the rostrum and read out a statement regarding the need to redistribute powers among RSFSR supreme state organs in order to implement anticrisis measures and carry out the decisions of the Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies.

I must make a small digression here. The point is that throughout the congress' work there were occasional suggestions that a presidency be established immediately in the republic. Most deputies thought it unnecessary to rush this since the package of legislative acts on this most serious and, I would say, historic issue has still not been adequately studied.

That was probably precisely why B. Yeltsin's statement had the effect of a bombshell in the parliament. Not for

everyone, however. People's Deputy S. Baburin, representing the "Russia" group, said that they had expected something of the sort. We journalists accredited to the congress also expected it. One of my colleagues who is on close terms with "democratic" circles, even claimed:

"Boris Nikolayevich has a resignation application in his left pocket!"

I don't know whether this was in fact the case, but at any rate the demand for "powers to be redistributed" sounded flabbergasting to many deputies. Despite the fact that a "democratic" choir immediately struck up at the microphones in support of the statement, deputies were left in a state of pensive confusion. Was this not an attempt to become acting Russian president ahead of time or, what's worse, was it not a step toward another dictatorship?

In short, having calmed down, the congress once again "started to seethe" [zatemperaturil]. S. Goryacheva told B. Yeltsin bluntly: "You are asking for extra powers while you cannot cope with your existing powers."

During the recess I spoke to many deputies. Some were rightly afraid that a vague set of additional powers might lead to clashes with organs of powers in what used to be the autonomous republics.

The resolution on additional powers was adopted after a long and stormy discussion and a host of amendments.

Well, time will tell whether the deputies were right or not. I think that this decision is attributable to one thing: People have grown tired of waiting for their daily lives to improve, they have grown sick of our executive structures' inertness and weakness, the disturbances, the universal idleness.

In the Kremlin's St. George's Hall where B. Yeltsin held the news conference closing the conference, in addition to the routine charges leveled at the center, he voiced the assurance that he would only act within the framework of the RSFSR Constitution and for the good of Russia and its peoples.

The future will tell how realistic this assurance is. At any rate, despite the fact that in his concluding address at the congress and at the press conference B. Yeltsin gave assurances of his commitment to the quest for compromises and good cooperation and to coordinated actions, a day later the Russian leadership took a step that clearly went against the leader's rash declarations. V. Barannikov, RSFSR minister of internal affairs, appointed Major General V. Komissarov chief of the Moscow City Internal Affairs Administration although a Main Administration for Moscow and Moscow Oblast had already been set up by decree of the USSR president and I. Shilov, USSR first deputy minister of internal affairs, appointed to lead it. What is this but a challenge, another step toward permanent confrontation?..

Due to the time overrun the second main question on the agenda—the question of the federative and Union treaties—was not discussed sufficiently thoroughly. Nevertheless one of the main points in the contradictions stood out: Should former autonomous entities sign the Union treaty as part of a single Russian delegation or should each of them operate as an independent component of the Union? Opinions also diverged on many other nuances in the treaty process. In view of the precise and delicate nature of this question, deputies decided to hand over documents to the republic's Supreme Soviet for finalization.

The congress has taken place and its decisions will affect the future of Russia's peoples for a long time to come. The task now is to transform these documents into concrete constructive actions. Sittings are all very well, but work has to be done.

IZVESTIYA Writer's Analysis

PM1004083091 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 91 Union Edition p 1

["Political Diary" report by Nikolay Andreyev: "After the Congress—Russian People's Deputies Leave Congress Tired but Satisfied"]

[Text] So the congress is over at last. "At last" being the operative phrase. It was with a feeling of profound bewilderment, which turned to irritation, that the Russian peoples watched events in the Grand Kremlin Palace. As the poet Vladimir Vishnevskiy said, "There are spectacular events whose appearance is such that they are better seen once! Than twice!" Indeed, once is enough to be convinced: No supreme power, which by definition is what the Congress of Russian People's Deputies should be, exists in the republic. In the words of one deputy, a "political slaughter" has taken place. The intention of those who participated in this slaughter was to stun the enemy, dumbfound him. Failing that, then to portray the enemy in a ludicrous or evil light. The paint used for this was the cheapest they could find, which would be better used more sparingly: "fascism," "bared teeth," "Black Hundreds"...

The deputies departed, leaving us with a riddle to contemplate: Why in fact was the congress held? I. Bratishchev, one of the cochairmen of the deputies' group "Communists of Russia," positively appraised its results at the concluding news conference. To a question on the congress' aims, he responded: To discuss society's social and economic situation and the crisis processes under way. But you know, it has already become an obsession: An eternal investigation into the crisis phenomena of Soviet reality. One physicist replied to the question of what draws him to scientific activity by saying: It allows you to satisfy personal curiosity at the state's expense. It is highly likely that some of the deputies, too, came to Moscow to satisfy personal curiosity at the electorate's expense. However, this process of examining why the country and the people are in an

impasse has been going on for six years now and it would seem that it should be drawing some conclusions by now.

I. Bratishchev pinpointed another reason for convening the congress: to look at ways of getting out of the crisis processes. Not really an original theme. For as long as perestroyka has existed people have been devising formulas for how to revitalize the political system, the economy, and society. And once again at the Russian congress a mass of versions, drafts, and plans for reform were proposed.

Nevertheless it is strange that the "Communists of Russia," on whose initiative the congress met, did not offer the deputies considerations on that score right at the beginning. Only at the seventh session did their representative Yu. Voronin submit something akin to a program. This is what the deputies heard: "We must increase discipline and responsibility," "impose order in all spheres of the economy," "broaden interest in boosting efficiency." No argument here, for we need order like we need air, and discipline and responsibility are in short supply in our country. But how can these things be achieved? No explanations. But you know, this is the most important economic question. Yu. Voronin went on to expand ideas reminiscent of worn-out boots: to preserve the basic economic structure, to elaborate annual plans, to fine-tune state orders, to organize the conclusion of mutually advantageous contracts by industrial enterprises and organizations and city soviet executive committees on participating in the spring field work and harvesting... Which you could call going back to square one. Yu. Voronin managed not to mention the word "ownership" even in passing. Without solving the problem of who owns what it is pointless to undertake any economic initiative. But maybe the whole point of the "Communists of Russia" program is uncertainty and vagueness: Do they want to restore everything as it was before so-called perestroyka? Then the words uttered with unconcealed bitterness by Deputy D. Volkogonov would be a fitting commentary: "...As before, our society is ruled by ideological rather than economic principles. We continue to assert that poverty is irrelevant so long as we keep a communist perspective!"

There was no hint of socialist choice never mind communist perspective in the program presented by the Russian Government. I. Silayev expounded his view on the catastrophic state of the economy: "Our approach is based on the conclusion that the reason for the steadily deteriorating situation in the republic and the country is not the collapse of economic links, the decline of discipline, or the loss of administrative control. Those are not causes but consequences... For an unforgivably long time we guarded our socialist chastity and interpreted every positive step toward the market as a departure from practice established across the world, from Shanghai to New York." The chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers went on to briefly outline the government's immediate plan of action. However, Silayev tried in vain to explain the principles of transformations to the esteemed assembly. Later, deputies got up onto the podium and thumped the air with their fists: The government has no program, nothing.

Is it possible to renew our common life if we do not specify why the transformations were conceived? For the sake of the individual or the idea? What in fact is the point of economic activity: To continue the attack on human nature, or to offer the individual the chance to do something? After all, society has almost lost hope that there is some kind of enlightenment ahead and so is on the brink of mutiny. This is breaking through in the most unexpected and, it would seem, peaceful places, as was the case in Belorussia recently. Incidentally, one of the deputies, shortly before the events in Minsk, addressing Yeltsin, said that here in Belorussia there is no president and the republic is prospering. Maybe he knew something in advance.

The congress did not adopt any economic program for getting out of the crisis. Indeed, it was incapable of adopting anything: The political and economic views of its participants were too varied. The opposition's proposals were not listened to attentively but simply noted. No agreement was reached on the economic platform. And it is not worth mentioning the political platform—confrontation here is vicious and irreconcilable. Irreconcilability increased because not one of the parties was supported by a majority. The congress showed us political life as it exists in our country. It is not normal. It is not normal in the sense that it does not recognize any norms—ethical, moral. These norms were destroyed in all spheres, and therefore it is very difficult to lay the foundations upon which to build.

A remarkable castling of two political figures took place at the congress, which could influence the disposition of forces in the deputy body. V. Isakov, one of the leaders of "Democratic Russia" in Sverdlovsk, who was appointed chairman of a chamber of the republic parliament, firmly and unequivocally confirmed at the congress that he is switching to another political camp. A. Rutskoy, one of the foremost personalities in the group "Communists of Russia," announced his break with it after accusing its representatives of conservatism, destructiveness, and inflexibility. But if V. Isakov defected on his own, then A. Rutskoy took around 20 representatives from the group "Communists of Russia" with him, and in all the faction founded by the colonel numbers over 170 deputies. And what is more, important people have put their signatures to the new parliamentary group's manifesto—directors of serious enterprises, leaders of agricultural firms, and eminent specialists.

The granting of emergency powers to B. Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet is passed off as a positive result of the congress. However, in the first place, excessive use of the concept of urgency has eroded its meaning to the point of losing all form and content. So great is the number of emergency committees, commissions, programs, and measures that emergency powers do not cause much of a stir. Furthermore, there is a suspicion that all that stands behind this is a wish in some way to ventilate the

political atmosphere. And, in fact, it is similar to the widely broadcast statement by the Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon Soviet which declared the rayon's land, wealth, and airspace its own. B. Yeltsin requested emergency powers—and got them. But it is hardly likely that this will have a bearing on the state of affairs in the republic.

General elections for the position of Russian president are planned for 12 June. The event is important but we will save this theme for a separate discussion.

Deputies from all political tendencies seemed pleased with themselves when they left the capital. Communists were satisfied that they had displayed an unbending determination in not waiving their principles. The democrats were satisfied with what they see as a victory in the final battle to confer emergency powers upon Yeltsin. The nonaligned are pleased they took part in the political marathon. We can conclude with the words of one deputy: "...We met here without love, and we are leaving without regret."

New 'Communists for Democracy' Party Examined

LD1004073991 Moscow TASS in English 0725 GMT 10 Apr 91

[By TASS world Service analyst Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—A step towards a schism or a renewal of the Soviet Communist Party? What does the new parliamentary faction, "Communists for Democracy" created at the emergency Russian Congress of People's Deputies on April 2, mean?.

According to organiser Aleksandr Rutskiy, the faction "should be the basis for a new public organisation within the Russian Communist Party".

Some Russian Communist Party leaders dubbed Rutskiy, hero of the Soviet Union and Afghan war veteran, "splitter" after he announced the creation of the new group at the congress. Rutskiy was elected to the Russian Communist Party Central Committee when the party was created last year.

Rutskiy blasted Russian Communists for their unconstructive position at the congress. According to Rutskiy, Russian Communists initiated the congress and sought the resignation of Russian parliament chairman Boris Yeltsin.

"The programme of orthodox Communists from the Russian Communist Party boils down to a return to the past—the preservation of a system that has outlived itself," Rutskiy believes.

The creation of the Communists for Democracy group, joined by ten percent of the members of the Communists of Russia parliamentary faction, changed the balance at the congress.

Rutskiy's group, uniting 179 members, unequivocally supported Boris Yeltsin and played an important role in helping him get additional powers at the congress.

Rutskiy now wants to register the group as a public organisation. He avoids calling it a political party, rejecting allegations of splitting the Soviet Communist Party apart.

The new organisation of "somber-minded Communists" should help renew the Soviet Communist Party, which is "loosing ground by the day".

"We aim not to split the Soviet Communist Party but to democratise it and call on all honest, open-minded Communists, who constitute a majority, to join us," Rutskiy told TASS.

However, neither Russian nor Soviet Communist Party leaders have officially stated their attitude towards Rutskiy's initiative.

After the creation of a Russian Communist Party last summer, some Communists, opposing its orthodox policies, quit the party.

Russian Communist Party leaders, however, believe that the party has strong positions in the largest Soviet republic.

"Recent times saw patriotic and state-minded intellectuals drawn to us. The Russian Communist Party is expanding its base among workers and peasants. People are tired of the havoc wrought by false democracy," Politburo member Gennadiy Zyuganov said recently.

New Political Parties' Registration Reported

PM0904143491 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 12, 24-31 Mar 91 p 4

[Report by Olga Bychova: "Russian Ministry of Justice: Registration of Political Parties"]

[Text] On Thursday, March 14, a multiparty system in the Russian Federation became legal. Thirty-seven public organizations were registered that day in the Russian Ministry of Justice. According to Minister of Justice Nikolay Fedorov, that was a "premier" of the law on public organizations passed by the USSR Supreme Soviet last fall. He says:

"In an emotional sense, it's a holiday, but in a political sense, everything is much more difficult. Anyway, it was a historic event, because—for the first time since 1917—we have a real political pluralism which is legally secure. In the future, more concrete and resolute moves will be required, within the framework of law, of course, to overcome the monopooly of old structures, which in actuality has been preserved. That will be a fierce political struggle.

"Currently, the ministry is considering and preparing for registration about 400 applications submitted by various

types of public organizations. None of them has so far been turned down. Our guideline is as follows: to consider the details and find a form of registration suitable to all, in full compliance with the law. Our personnel often give consultations, although they are not obliged to do so. registration at the ministerial level is only a beginning. Considering that registration is possible at the local level, up to 2,000 organizations are expected to get registered by the end of this year."

Registration Certificate number One belongs to the Russian Cultural Workers Union. Among the 37 organizations registered on the first day are the lawyers association, a theosophy society, a society of pathological anatomists, a builders' association, and one old acquaintance—the Russian Komsomol, the Young Communist League organization. Its representative said: "We are totally different now."

Among the first political parties that received official recognition are the russian Democratic Party, the Republican Party (formerly known as the Democratic Platform in the CPSU) and the Social-Democratic Party. On one hand, this testifies to these parties' firm positions (for registration they've had to submit clearly formulated programmes and others documents and pay a substantial registration fee, not to say that a party's membership should contain at least 5,000 people. On the other hand, this confirms the new parties' determination to act in accordance with the law. The next day after registration, the leaders of three parties held a press conference to clarify their positions on major political issues. Says Oleg Rumyantsev, leader of the Social- Democrats: "It's necessary that all come to realize that parties exist officially and that they participate in the country's political life on equal grounds."

To all appearances, the Russian Communist Party won't be among the first four hundred. In any case, it hasn't yet submitted its application. Its representatives are said to be merely trying to find out the details by telephone—in their old fashion. The Russian Communists are known to be facing several problems: So far the party does not have its own rules, and its membership hasn't been defined. The question when the Communist Party will be ready for registration might be of great interest to the Russian Minister of Justice.

MOSCOW NEWS on Democrats' 9 Mar Speeches

PM0404163091 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 11, 17-24 Mar 91 p 5

[Unattributed feature: "What's Been Left Out of Focus"]

[Text] On March 9 representatives from Russia's democratic forces met at Moscow's Cinema House. The mass media have commented solely on Boris Yeltsin's statement.

For reasons of space MN offers the gist of the main statements.

Vasiliy Selyunin: The democrats have been losing prestige because they are losing time. They should have been more persistent in dealing with privatization because no democracy is possible without private ownership. But we are late: spring sowing has begun and it starts on collective farm land. This means we shall have to wait another year, although somehow we've got to get through this year. The situation may change if the referendum replies to the question about the introduction of presidency in Russia in the affirmative.

Vladimir Tikhonov: We are being told about equal conditions for the existence of any form of economic management - from state-owned to indiviudal - forgetting that the state-monopoly system is so strong that it is beyond the power of any nascent economic structure to compete with it. There is a need to brush aside false slogans about equal conditions for everyone. If we want Russia to be rich, the state's material and financial support must be primarily concentrated on the development of free enterprise, especially in agriculture.

Nikolay Shmelev: I was sure we would be able to survive this winter and evade famine. I wouldn't be so bold as to say the same about next winter. The government must take vigorous but very simple measures: like putting our mobilization reserve on the market, for example. And they must make appeal usually made in September in August - that is, call upon people to help with the harvest. For democratic movements the stage of specific deeds is now of far greater importance than the exchange of political curses and the clarification of relations.

Leonid Batkin: As I see it, there is a need to put forward a meaningful, specific slogan for the transitional period. We must explain what the mechanism of going over to a normal society can be like. But how is it possible to ensure that the Pavlov government, unprecedented in its cynicism, quit without violence, without fighting? Should we oust the President who has become the pioneer of anti-perestroika? This cannot be done without extraparliamentary action. There is a need to understand whether a general political strike is possible and to prepare it socially, psychologically and economically. Unless we prepare it we shall have to contend with spontaneous scattered action.

Yuriy Chernichenko: Giving land - is it or is it not a matter of policy now? The most important thing is to decide who will do that. It pains me that after the serious Russian laws of last autumn the winter has been lost, and the whole parliamentary momentum has been wasted. I advocate investing non-state millions into an agrarian reform before it is too late. Before not only famine, but also a Kornilov-like revolt swallow us all down with the land.

Nikolay Travkin: The CPSU is a force opposed to the people, but it acts with its ranks closed, and we mustn't bear a grudge against this. We need to repattern the democratic forces in such a way that they will also be able to act like a close-knit force. In other words,

democracy must be realized through the party's regime. We need structures all over Russia so as to take coordinated and simultaneous action. Democratic Russia can become a bloc of parties - from the compositon of forces we shall acquire a new quality. We all understand what must be done. It is not clear how it should be done and who is going to do it. I believe that the absolute majority of parties will not call people to the barricades. At any rate, the Democratic Party of Russia will not. That means that what remains is elections.

Viktor Shchekochikhin, president, Russia's Union of Private Owners: Veritable democracy is impossible without private ownership and a free market. Entrepreneurs cannot do without democratic progressive forces. But the democratic forces, too, must draw on entrepreneurs for support. Today one often hears it said that in the new power structures there are many incompetent people who got there on the crest of opposition to the old nomenklatura. This happened in part also because the representatives of free enterprise took no part in the first elections of USSR people's deputies due to a lack of organization. Today we are prepared to participate in electing the supreme bodies of authority. And I presume there is already a need to pose the question of re-electing the parliaments of Russia and the Union.

Gleb Yakunin: The most horrible thing our voters say today is that Gorbachev and Yeltsin are like two peas in a pod. We are on the brink of chaos, on the brink of wildcat strikes about to sweep the country. The people have been driven to the limit and it is absurd to speak of elections—no one will go to the polls any longer. In the remaining days we must close our ranks so as to act as a united force.

Stanislav Shatalin: We have come to the right conclusion—to be able to fight, we must have a powerful party. Therefore, any differences among Social-Democrats, Republicans, etc., must be discarded. We will all be muzzled unless we are able to overcome our differences.

One of our principal mistakes is that we permitted the two movements to be split—the republican, national movement and the party-intersectoral-class movement, to use the adjectives of Marxism. As a result, everyone stood to lose—the Baltics, the Uzbeks, the democrats and the centrists.

But to accuse the democrats of not knowing how to govern is like dropping a hydrogen bomb on Chernobyl as well. One may think that the nondemocrats have run and are running the country better. But we must also dissociate ourselves from every kind of movement calling for a public trial of the CPSU. Today we need a Sermon on the Mount, not trials. Hunting communists is an unseemly occupation. We would become neobolsheviks doing a dirty job, screening themselves behind expressions of democracy. Let us give the "anti" platform to others and take the "for" platform as our own, because we will not hold out on "anti" any longer.

Anatoliy Malgin, Chairman, Strike Committee of the Yesaulskaya Mine: We consider the continuation of the political strike to be well founded. But it is in the population's interest to limit the number of enterprises on strike depending on the political situation, and impart to the strike the character of a running wave, a relay race. The supply of coal should not be discontinued. If need be, committees on supplies should be set up and their activities coordinated with Russia's Council of Ministers. That is, life-support committees, because it's winter now.

I don't like to hurt representatives from other sectors, but no one else has such an attitude towards his own life as the miners have. The most horrible thing is that we have grown accustomed to death. We call death, a "zero". This year there have been 18 "zeros", last year—four "zeros". Everyone who has worked ten years has lost two or three co-workers who died right before his eyes. That's the meaning of "zeros". That's in general the indicator of our work.

The miners have been on strike for five days running. Everyone now has the feeling its impossible to go back, but there is no one to go forward with. [Malgin ends]

Thus, the meeting at Cinema House was the first contact of the new policy with the new economy of free enterprise. The meeting resulted in the adoption of a policy document entitled Charter-91.

Trubin Argues for Proceedings Against Deputy

PM050415439l Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 91 First Edition pp 1-2

["Yesterday in the Kremlin" report by O. Kuzmina, G. Ovcharenko, and A. Chereshnev: "Debate on the Report; Extraordinary Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday morning the deputies strayed from the agenda again. USSR General Prosecutor N. Trubin took the floor.

On 28 January 1991, he said, the POSTFACTUM news agency disseminated through official channels a report on a speech at a "Democratic Russia" movement leadership news conference at the Moscow City Soviet by RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] People's Deputy A. Tarasov, president of the Russian innovation center and vice president of the USSR Union of Combined Cooperatives, who said that the USSR president has "turned his back on the West and gambled on Japan. According to available information, during the Japanese premier's recent visit to Moscow a secret document on the transfer of four Kuril islands to Japan was signed or agreed. Japan responded by promising to invest at least $200 billion in the Soviet economy. This would lead to a considerable improvement in living standards in the USSR and ensure that Gorbachev retains his dictatorial power, along with the elimination of democracy." On 1 February N. Trubin went on, the

USSR president's press service published in the media an official denial of A. Tarasov's statement, which is described as deliberately misleading and is seen as a political provocation. According to a Japanese Foreign Ministry account transmitted by the Soviet media, there are no deals relating to the transfer of the four islands in the Kuril chain. We asked the POSTFACTUM agency whether A. Tarasov's words were reported accurately. We received a letter from G. Pavlovskiy, chief editor of the news agency, who writes that he takes full responsibility for the information contained in the agency's reports. Since the materials as presented contain indications of slander against the USSR president and there are discernible indications in these actions of a crime envisaged by the USSR law on the protection of the USSR president's honor and dignity, we made representations to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet to countenance the institution of criminal proceedings in this connection. Representations were made in exact accordance with the law on the status of USSR and RSFSR people's deputies. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet considered our representations 1 March. N. Trubin continued, and refused to countenance the institution of criminal proceedings; there was no discussion of the representation and no reason was given for the refusal, which contravenes the RSFSR Supreme Soviet's standing orders. Therefore we decided to refer the matter for consideration by the congress.

It is a matter of getting it to agree to criminal proceedings, the general prosecutor further pointed out. If the data required for making a charge are obtained during the investigation, the USSR general prosecutor will again ask the republican Supreme Soviet to agree to the institution of criminal proceedings.

N. Trubin then expressed his opinion on the need for an amendment to be made to existing legislation in connection with the procedure for countenancing the institution of criminal proceedings. The demand for agreement of this kind is not very democratic, he said, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, it contradicts existing RSFSR criminal procedure legislation.

The debate that then flared up displayed a rather wide range of opinion. Some deputies supported the general prosecutor's representation, others categorically rejected it and doubted it was accurate, evidently not realizing that it was not a matter of making a charge, but merely of instituting proceedings in order to establish the truth. Some people saw A. Tarasov's words not as an assertion, but as a hypothesis, which changes matters significantly. Some even saw the "hand of communists" in this representation, accusing N. Trubin of incompetence.

Unfortunately, many speeches, in our view, were overly emotional and far from proper, which actually (may the deputies forgive us) is already a tradition at this congress.

It was decided by a majority of votes to reject the representation.

Almost immediately after this we were able to talk with Nikolay Semenovich.

"I am sure I am right," he told us and the deputies listening to the conversation. "There are grounds for instituting criminal proceedings in accordance with Articles 108 and 109 of the RSFSR Criminal Procedure Code. Of course, I have to accept the congress decision, but what pains me is the juridical incompetence of many deputies, including lawyers. In my view, the adoption of this decision was influenced not only by ignorance of the laws, but above all by emotion mixed with political ambition..."

In the time that remained before the break the deputies returned to the agenda. Specifically, to a discussion of the amended version of point 5 of the congress resolution "On the Political and Socioeconomic Situation in the RSFSR and Measures To Emerge From the Crisis." It was on this question that the voting had ground to a halt the day before. Yesterday, however, taking into account the changes made by the deputies, point 5 was adopted relatively quickly.

But the deputies were unable to reach agreement on a number of other amendments. Therefore R. Khasbulatov, who was chairing the sitting, brought the afternoon sitting to an end a little earlier than planned. The consultative commission and the political groups' coordinators will meet again during the break.

Western Republics

Rallies, Strikes Against Price Hikes in Minsk

Rally Delegates Meet Officials

LD0504053491 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Yesterday, a rally took place outside the Belorussian Supreme Soviet building in Minsk. Around 40,000 people took part in it. According to a POSTFAKTUM report a delegation was formed at the rally for talks with Dementey, chairman of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet, and Kebich, the republic's prime minister. During the talks the representatives of the striking workers put forward their economic and political demands.

TASS, RIA Reports Contrasted

PM0504165191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 91 p 1

[TASS, RIA reports: "Events in Minsk"]

[Text]**TASS Version**

Around 10,000 citizens of Minsk came out onto the square in front of Belorussia's Government House yesterday. The labor collectives of the Minsk automobile, motorcycle, and tractor plants, together with physicians

and students, gathered for a rally which was a continuation of the spontaneous strike that flared up in the Belorussian capital the day before.

As on 3 April, the causes of indignation were the price rises and the fact that, in the opinion of participants in the event, pay was not in line with them. Today the rally demonstrators switched the focus of their attention to the political sphere. "Resign!"—this was the slogan heard in virtually all the speeches. The strikers demanded that the Union and republic governments, and also the USSR president and the chairman of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet, be dismissed.

The economic demands put forward by the strikers yesterday included a two or threefold pay rise and the repeal of the "president's" 5 percent sales tax.

Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Belorussian Council of Ministers, came out to meet the demonstrators. But they simply did not listen to him. His attempts to make himself understood were drowned out by chanting and whistling. Having started his speech several times, the premier was forced to get down from the rostrum. On the way to the parliament building, he gave an interview to TASS correspondents about what he had wanted to tell the strikers.

"At the present time we are trying, together with the trade unions, to find ways of easing the price reforms," Vyacheslav Kebich said. "But some of the demands being made of the Belorussian Government are simply impracticable since we are obliged to work within the framework of the laws adopted by the Supreme Soviet."

RIA Version

"The economic strike in Minsk which began 3 April has escalated into a citywide economic strike," Ales Yemelyanov, chairman of the Belorussian National Democratic Party Coordinating Council, told an RIA correspondent.

In his words, more than 100,000 people are now outside the Belorussian Supreme Soviet building on Lenin Square. The Belorussian militia and the capital's higher education institutions have declared solidarity with the striking workers. A city strike committee has been organized.

IZVESTIYA on 9 Apr Strikes

PM0904200191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent M. Shimanskiy: "Belorussia: Tension Persists"]

[Text] Minsk, 9 Apr—The "Belaruskaliy" association in Soligorsk struck Tuesday 9 April in support of the workers of Minsk.

This enterprise, the largest of its kind in the country, produces more than half the union output of potassium fertilizer. It has to be said that the "Belaruskaliy" leadership did take prompt measures to soften the blow inflicted by the reform of retail prices: Each worker is being paid an extra 36 rubles per month to compensate for increased food costs. But the collective is basically making political demands: The resignation of the president of the country and the USSR and Belorussian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviets.

What is the situation like in Minsk? On Tuesday morning I called the city strike committee. This is what committee member G. Gvozdik told me:

"On 8 April the strike committee held a sitting at the end of the day. A unanimous decision was made to hold a warning strike in the city on 9 April 1300 through 1500 hours. What was the reason why the strike committee made this decision? The reason was the republic government's breach of the agreement granting the strike committee 15 minutes' airtime on television each day."

At noon on 9 April a number of Minsk enterprises began warning strikes. Auto workers quit their shops and held a rally at the plant administration. Many tractor plant workers also stopped work and left. They assembled at the intersection of Dolgobrodskaya and Uralskaya Streets. A rally with the participation of the workers of several neighboring enterprises was then held there. More than 4,000 people assembled for a rally held at the "Integral" association.

Government Appeals for Discipline

LD0904195891 Minsk Domestic Service in Belorussian 1725 GMT 9 Apr 91

["Appeal of the Presidium of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers to the Belorussian People"—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear compatriots! We are addressing you at a difficult and contradictory time. The decision of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers on introducing new retail prices on industrial goods and food has been called for by the objective processes that are taking place in connection with the radical change in the system of administration of the country economy and transfer to market relations. The change in the pricing policy is being carried out in all the republics. It is caused, first of all, by the necessity to achieve correspondence between labor costs and product costs in market conditions. The inflation processes which developed in the country's economy have had a substantial effect on the rise in the cost of living.

Being aware of the necessity of changing the retail prices, the working people have expressed their discontent with errors and false steps. Not all the necessary measures have been taken to soften the results of such a transfer, especially in the case of families with children, schoolchildren and students, and other low-income categories

of citizens. Just indignation was provoked by the price rises for food in factories', students' and school canteens and buffets.

Sharing the general concern, the government of the republic has adopted in these conditions a number of serious additional measures for social protection of the population, such as preserving unchanged the tariffs on main kinds of housing and public utilities and keeping children in pre-school establishments; abolishing the 5-percent sales tax on main foods and children's goods; and compensation payments without limitation of the minimal wage to families with children under age. The republic was the first in the country to pass the law on income indexation of the population and to start its implementation. In order to strengthen the social protection of the population, a stage-by-stage increase in wages of employees in the industrial branches of the economy will be implemented over the year, starting from April 1991. The question of sources for financing the payment of compensations to employees of unprofitable enterprises, state and collective farms and other enterpries, which have no funds for doing so on their own, is being solved. The compensation payments in connection with price rises on children's goods are being increased to the extent where it is possible to prevent the population's losses in buying these goods. compensation payments to mothers who are currently on leave for looking after a child, will be made. Food in students' canteens and buffets has been made cheaper, the addition to prices in factories' canteens has been lowered.

The presidium of the republic Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers will take further steps for softening economic instability and effective implanting of market relations. We are convinced that, as the market develops, the fundamental ideas of the price reform will ultimately make it possible to liberate economic relations and will become an impulse in restructuring the economy. We expect that the price reform will help to set the economic processes in the right direction and provide stable incentives for effective work. Stable political and socio-economic conditions and an atmosphere of civil peace and accord are most necessary today. It is very important that each citizens should understand the situation which has occurred in the republic's economy.

The presidium of the republic Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers call on all working collectives to solve problems through conciliatory measures, not by rallies, to show discipline and organization, to be law-abiding, and to resist emotions and provocative appeals. To avoid economic chaos and worsening of the material conditions of industrial workers is only possible on the condition of increase in production volume, labor productivity, and improvement in work discipline. It is the only realistic way to fill the consumer market with goods and increase the financial income of the population. All our efforts should be directed at saving the republic's economy from breakdown, at stopping the production decline, and at beginning to get out of the long crisis.

Strikers Allowed TV Airtime

LD0904184891 Moscow TASS in English 1801 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By TASS correspondents Tatyana Khryapina and Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk April 9 TASS—Authorities and strikers in Minsk have agreed in principle on giving the committee a time slot in TV programming, at talks today held at the Belorussian Supreme Soviet. Both sides however disagreed on the form of transmission.

Seventeen enterprises, which held a warning three-hour strike today, demanded live transmission.

Strike organisers are going to announce their economic and political demands: mainly a wage rise to offset a steep price hike and the resignation of Soviet and Belorussian leaders.

Strikers insist on live transmission and are against TV anchormen taking part in these broadcasts. The republican leadership proposed that they meet heads of television and the parliament's commission for glasnost, news media and human rights and find "the form of transmission that would be acceptable to both sides".

Representatives of the strike committee did not show up for the meeting scheduled at 3 P.M. In this context, a fresh wave of strikes and rallies, planned by the city strike committee for April 10, cannot be ruled out.

The Belorussian Parliament appealed to workers and the entire Belorussian people to display common sense and understanding of the current situation. The government's additional social security measures, designed to cushion the effect of the price hike, require another six billion roubles.

However, Belorussia's annual budget has a 3.5 billion deficit and strikes further aggravate the difficult economic situation.

Gorbachev Resignation Urged

AU1004094191 Paris AFP in English 0920 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, April 10 (AFP) — Several thousand demonstrators rallied in the centre of Minsk, the Belorussian capital, on Wednesday [10 April] calling for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation, the INTERFAX news agency reported.

Workers from about 50 factories downed tools, the INTERFAX said, ignoring Mr. Gorbachev's plea on Tuesday for a ban on political strikes and rallies held during working hours.

The Belorussian Government's press centre told AFP that representatives from many factories were speaking at the rally, which was taking place under its windows on Lenin Square.

A strike committee, set up last week after a first strike day in Minsk over government-ordered price increases, had given local authorities until Wednesday to respond to their demands.

On Tuesday, several plants held a three-hour stoppage to protest the local government's refusal to give television air time to strike committee representatives.

A local government statement carried by Belorussian radio Tuesday night called on workers to "avoid economic chaos" through conciliation rather than by rallies and strikes.

Warning of impending economic collapse in the country, Mr. Gorbachev on Tuesday called for a ban on political strikes and meetings held during working hours for the rest of the year.

The Belorussian Government statement also stressed that some of the strikers' demands had already been met, including the lifting of a five per cent sales tax on essential goods, promises to increase wages by stages and a reduction in the price of food sold at factory canteens and schools.

"Today, a stable political and socio-economic situation and an atmosphere of civil peace and accord are most necessary," the statement said.

The Minsk strikers, who have been joined by miners from nearby Soligorsk, are calling for full compensation to offset price increases and the resignation of the Soviet leadership and parliament.

Meanwhile, about 300,000 coal-miners in the rest of the country continued their six-week-old strike.

Measures To Lessen Increases

PM1004143591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 91 union Edition p 2

["Direct Line" report by Mikhail Shimanskiy: "Government and Trade Unions Take Steps"]

[Text] The Belorussian Government reacted swiftly to the working people's actions by outlining in conjunction with the republic Trade Union Federation additional measures for the social protection of the population.

Their joint document has been published. In it the government and trade unions describe the social-political and economic situation in the republic as extremely tense, having been exacerbated to the nth degree by the increase in retail prices. It is planned to reduce by a factor of 1.5-2 on average the retail prices of children's goods introduced on 2 April on the basis of Union price lists. The 5-percent sales tax on public catering enterprises' own products is abolished. The oblast soviet executive committee and the Minsk City Soviet Executive Committee have been told to reduce the level of markups in workers', students', and school dining rooms and snack bars. There are plans to make food cheaper in students' and school dining rooms by drawing on budget resources and nonbudget funds. There will be a stage-by-stage increase in the pay of workers and employees in the national economy's production sectors. A reduction in the size of depreciation payments into the fund to finance republic and regional programs from 40 to 20 percent will provide extra money for compensation payments and cheaper food.

The possibility of additional measures for the social protection of the population is also being worked on. The government and the trade union federation council proposed that these measures should be discussed in labor collectives.

On Monday the working day began normally at city enterprises. Meetings are continuing in labor collectives with republic government leaders.

A Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution has been promulgated "On serious omissions during the reform of retail prices and provision of social protection for the Belorussian SSR populace".

The republic Trade Ministry has been irresponsible. The revaluation of goods, primarily those for which maximum levels were fixed, was an ill-timed exercise and their prompt appearance in the retail network was not ensured. Goods were sent for sale at contract (free) prices.

The question of the political situation in the republic was discussed on Monday at the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau.

Belorussia's Dementey Backs Gorbachev Measures

LD0904212791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Interview with Nikolay Ivanovich Dementey, chairman of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet, by correspondent Vladimir Stefanov on 9 April, place not given—From the "Vremya" newscast]

[text] [Stefanov] Nikolay Ivanovich, at the Council of the Federation words were spoken to the effect that today it is necessary to act, act without delay, act, while casting aside all arguing and quarrels. In your view, can we today act together, as has already happened in our history, and what needs to be done for this purpose?

[Dementey] What is needed are competent, decisive measures, from our country's president down to all leaders who today are in the organs of Soviet power, in the executive power of our soviets. Only highly competent and decisive work can bring to a stop the process which has begun to show by the rupture of economic ties between regions and between collectives.

Today collectives, the healthy part of our entire population—that is to say those who are concerned for their fatherland—are expecting these decisive measures.

And I felt today that the fact that the president read out drafts which will be adopted in the near future and the measures which are being planned, up to emergency ones, instil confidence in me that it is possible and necesasry to cope with justifying the hope which the people is expressing at this difficult hour for our country.

NOVOSTI Cited on Moldovan CP Split

LD0904223191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2138 GMT 9 Apr 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] According to a report from the NOVOSTI agency, a split has taken place within the Communist Party of Moldova. An independent Communist Party of the republic on a democratic platform was set up at a constituent conference in Kishinev. The new party has declared itself independent of the CPSU and has rejected the communist perspective. It is reported to be orientating itself in accordance with the values of modern Western democracy.

Moldovan Communist Party Drafts New Program

LD0604053191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1123 GMT 5 Apr 91

[By MOLDOVAPRES-TASS correspondents Anatoliy Colya and Aleksandr Tanas]

[Text] Kishinev, 5 Apr (TASS)—For the first time in the history of the Moldovan party organization drafting has begun on its own draft program for the republic's communists. Yesterday evening the first meeting of a special commission that is to work out the document took place under the chairmanship of Grigoriy Yeremey, first secretary of the Moldova Communist Party Central Committee.

"The program that is being drafted," Grigoriy Yeremey told MOLDOVA-PRES correspondents, "should be a reliable reference point for the long term of the work of Communists in renewing the party. Above all, it should reflect priority tasks in restructuring society on the basis of the principles of democratic socialism and political pluralism of views."

"Not only Communists but also the numerous supporters of our party," the leader of the Moldovan communists noted, "are awaiting an answer to the question: To what kind of society are we moving? The program should provide an answer to it, propose innovative ways of solving the party's pressing problems, and determine long-term landmarks. The solution of theoretical matters, in particular a reinterpretation of the ideas of Marx and Lenin in line with the realities of the finish of the 20th century, is no less important and fundamental", he emphasized.

It was indicated at the meeting that the program for the renewal of the Moldova Communist Party adopted at the Moldova Communist Party's 17th congress should serve as the basis for the preparation of the draft document.

Crimean Oblast Elects New First Secretary

LD0904180191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Simferopol]

[Text] The plenum of the Crimean City Party Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, which took place today examined organizational questions.

The plenum relieved Bagrov of his duties as first secretary, supporting his decision to concentrate his efforts on work in his post as chairman of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet. Grach, who worked as second secretary of the oblast committee, was elected first secretary of the party obkom.

In connection with the change in the state standing [gosudarstvenyy status] of the Crimea the question of renaming the oblast party organization and its elected bodies as republican ones was also examined.

The decision has been sent to the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee for examination.

Ukrainian Official: Famine Possible 'This Year'

LD0904150691 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Famine can occur this year, stated Viktor Urchukin, deputy chairman of the UkSSR [Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers. He believes that the center's super- monopolism is the main reason for the prevailing economic and political crisis, especially so in distribution. This can be clearly seen when the work of the USSR Ministries of Trade and of State Supplies is analyzed.

The structure of state trade makes it possible to create artificial shortages of commodities, distributing them among illegal channels in the shadow economy. Urchukin also points out that the functioning of monopolist banking structures has turned into yet another means of destroying the country's economy.

In order to avoid a collapse, Viktor Urchukin advises, it will be necessary to immediately demonopolize the distribution practice and the systems of Soviet trade and state supplies.

Kiev Communists See 'Short-Sighted' Center Policy

LD1004084591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1257 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Stanislav Volyanskiy]

[Text] Kiev, 9 Apr (TASS)—The Communists of Kiev, who make up one of the largest party organizations in the Ukraine, have demanded the convocation of extraordinary plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee to examine the question of the political situation which has developed in the country and in the republic, with a report-back by the leadership.

The participants in a plenum of the Kiev City Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party described the sharp increase in wholesale and retail prices for goods and services as the latest ill-considered, profoundly and organizationally unprepared act on the part of the government. The plenum discussed the question of the current situation in connection with retail price reform.

The statement adopted on this matter notes that the process of the socioeconomic crisis in the country is rapidly getting worse. It has been caused, the participants in the plenum believe, mainly by the short-sighted internal policy of the government of the country, which is aimed at achieving immediate results.

Chernobyl Radioactive Burial To Be Relocated

LD1004021591 Moscow TASS in English 1953 GMT 9 Apr 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petruniya]

[Text] Kiev April 9 TASS—The fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl Power Plant accident on April 26 will see the relocation of the radioactive waste burial.

Directly after the blast hundreds of burials were built near the station and in the 30-kilometer zone to bury radiation emitting soil, machinery and equipment. The forests were razed and the soil ploughed.

However, the necessary technology was not strictly adhered to in building the burials and now the need has arisen to relocate the waste to more dependable burials.

So much radiation muck has accumulated in the 30-kilometer zone that it would take decades to remove it all. It needs additional processing before removal. And this requires the building of a special processing enterprise. The Ukrainian Government has turned to some research and design institutes with the request to help design the enterprise.

Work is also underway to develop technology for restoring to use in the economy many materials after decontaminating them. For instance, a great deal of metal now lies idle in the zone, including 20,000 tonnes of stainless steel. The Swiss firm Recytec will supply equipment to decontaminate the metal.

The Belorussian Government has decided to set up a state expedition to rescue monuments of history and culture from districts affected by Chernobyl blast radiation.

According to First Deputy Culture Minister of Belorussia Vladimir Gilep, nearly 1,000 monuments of culture, including folk crafts, are located on contaminated territory in the Gomel, Mogilev and Brest regions.

"The expedition will take up the rescue of all these cultural valuables," Gilep told TASS.

This year expedition members are due to inspect abandoned palaces, cathedrals, and obelisks. They plan to restore and conserve the most valuable structures.

Measures To Eliminate Chernobyl Consequences

LD0504173191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0558 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow, 5 Apr (TASS)—Throughout the years that have elapsed since the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station [AES] the areas that suffered have remained the subject of the constant attention of the legislature and the country's government. As was reported to a TASS correspondent at the USSR Cabinet of Ministers, over the last month a number of important new decisions have been adopted aimed at eliminating the consequences of the accident.

A concept has been approved by the government regarding the residence of the population in the areas that suffered as a result of the Chernobyl accident. It was drawn up by scientists from the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], the Academy of Sciences of the Belorussian SSR, and scientists of Russia, and a decision has been adopted on putting it into force.

The decision adopted by the USSR Cabinet of Ministers in March "on additional measures to improve the material and social provision of medical and pharmaceutical staff to the health institutions located in the areas that have been subjected to radioactive contamination as a result of the Chernobyl AES" will give significant support to the public health bodies on the spot in building up medical cadres. A contract system of hiring staff and a whole number of benefits and advantages for working in areas of radioactive contamination are envisaged by the decision. Twenty million rubles per year have been allocated to finance the expenditure on this decision.

At the same time, with the rise in retail prices, the USSR Cabinet of Ministers had adopted a decision doubling the allowances allocated for acquiring "clean" food products in the areas in which a restriction has been introduced on the consumption of produce produced by local industry and from private subsidiary plots.

The USSR Cabinet of Ministers has drawn up and submitted for examination to the USSR Supreme Soviet a draft law "on the social protection of citizens who have been subjected to the effect of radiation as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl AES." Similar laws were recently adopted in Belorussia and in the Ukraine and a similar law is being drawn up in the Russian Soviet

Federated Socialist Republic. The draft law is being discussed by the committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet and will be examined at a plenary session in the next few days.

Issues that were brought before USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev during his trip to Belorussia in March this year have been resolved.

Continuing the policy of developing international cooperation regarding Chernobyl issues, the USSR Government has started to work out of specific proposals to be included in a program of such cooperation. It is being created with the participation of UN organizations and institutions in keeping with the resolution of the 45th session of the General Assembly of the world community adopted in December 1990.

Caucasus

Further on Georgian Independence Declaration

President Hails Action

LD0904202591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Report by correspondent Gongadze in Tbilisi, from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Gongadze] Today was a day of mourning for the Georgian people. But from today this will be....

[Georgian President Gamsakhurdia] This will be the day of the restoration of the state independence of Georgia. Precisely this day, because people who participated in the demonstration died in the struggle for the freedom and independence of Georgia. So we have decided to declare independence today to fulfill their cherished dream and the dream of all the Georgian people as well as the non-Georgian population of our country. We are preparing the great consolidation of our people and appeal to the world community to recognise Georgia as an independent sovereign state.

Addresses Gorbachev on Sovereignty

AU1004093091 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian 0400 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Address by Zviad Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Soviet, to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Tbilisi on 9 April—recorded]

[Text] Your Highness, Mr. President,

Basing itself on the will of the people of the Republic of Georgia that was expressed in the referendum of 31 March 1991, the Republic of Georgia Supreme Soviet publically announces that it has resolved to restore the state independence of Georgia based on the act of Georgian independence of 26 May 1918 [words indistinct].

Taking into account the personal contribution that you have made in the world and, in particular, to the favorable changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe in the last few years, as well as the kind attitude you have repeatedly shown toward the Georgian people, we express the hope that you will remain true to democratic principles to the end and will recognize Georgia as a democratic sovereign state.

For our part, we announce that we are ready to have and to further develop, on the basis of new principles, mutually beneficial economic and political relations both with the whole of the Soviet Union and with its individual republics.

[Signed] Zviad Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Soviet
Tbilisi, 9 April, 1991

Asks for International Support

AU1004100491 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian 0400 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Address by Georgian Supreme Soviet Chairman Zviad Gamsakhurdia to the peoples of the world in Tbilisi on 9 April]

[Text] A universal national referendum was held in the Republic of Georgia on 31 March 1991, as a result of which the population unanimously supported the restoration of the state independence of Georgia based on the act of Georgian independence of 26 May 1918. On 9 April 1991, the Republic of Georgia Supreme Soviet adopted the act of the restoration of the state independence of Georgia and, in this way, has expressed the will of the people.

The leadership of the Soviet Union has repeatedly used military force against the Georgian people in their struggle along the peaceful path toward independence. One event confirming this was the tragedy of 9 April 1989. On that day, units of the Soviet Army carried out a barbaric act against young people on hunger strike to demand Georgian independence. As a result of the use of chemical weapons and D-handled shovels, dozens of people were killed, including many women, and thousands of people were poisoned, people whose lives are, to this day, still in danger.

On 28 October 1990, as a result of multiparty elections, the communist regime was overthrown in Georgia. The Kremlin declared a hostile struggle against the Georgian nation that was expressed by an artificially inspired ethnic conflict, an economic blockade, and the spreading of disinformation about Georgia.

The Republic of Georgia Supreme Soviet addresses the peoples and humane persons of the world to support the will of the people in their struggle for independence,

democracy, and just ideals; not to allow the use of force against them, and to support the recognition and establishment of the Republic of Georgia in mutual friendship with democratic states.

[Signed] Zviad Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Soviet
Tbilisi, 9 April, 1991.

Preserves Abkhaz Autonomy

LD0904132691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] A declaration of the state independence of Georgia was adopted unanimously today by the legislature of that republic at an extraordinary session. At the basis of the document is the declaration of independence of Georgia of 26 May 1918. The difference is that today's one guarantees the preservation of Abkhaz autonomy, while it is envisaged that the status of Adzharia will be determined by the inhabitants of that autonomous republic through a referendum.

South Ossetia Remains 'Extremely Tense'

LD0904231991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2138 GMT 9 Apr 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] The situation in South Ossetia remains extremely tense. Shooting is taking place in the outskirts of Tskhinvali and in villages. Tskhinvali has at last welcomed a column of vehicles carrying humanitarian aid. On the journey it was protected by sub-units of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD].

In South Ossetia, the official commission of investigators and experts of the USSR MVD has begun work. They are collecting material about the crimes of the fighters [boyevikov].

Joint RSFSR-Georgian Protocol Signed

AU0404145991 Tbilisi VESTNIK GRUZII in Russian 26 Mar 91

["Protocol on the meeting and negotiations between Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia" issued in Kazbegi on 23 March]

[Text] 1. During April 1991, a draft treaty on interstate relations between the RSFSR and the Republic of Georgia must be prepared for signing and working groups must be created for this purpose.

* * *

As a result of the coordination of joint efforts to stabilize the situation in the region of the former South Ossetian Autonomous Region, the sides agreed on the following:

2. The RSFSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Georgia must create, within 10 days—by 20 April 1991—a joint commission for studying the situation in the said region and for objectively assessing the situation there.

3. The RSFSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Georgia will create, by 10 April, a joint militia force for disarming all illegal formations on the territory of the former South Ossetian Autonomous Region. This force will be responsible for ensuring the protection of public order on the said territory until the situation there stabilizes.

4. The USSR Ministry of Defense will be addressed with a proposal to redeploy Soviet Army units from the territory of the former South Ossetian Autonomous Region.

5. The councils of ministers of the RSFSR, the Republic of Georgia, and the North Ossetian [Autonomous] Soviet Socialist Republic must begin, without delay, to create conditions for the return of refugees to places of their permanent residence and to ensure the restoration of legitimate organs of local power.

6. The governments of the Republic of Georgia, the RSFSR, and the North Ossetian [Autonomous] Soviet Socialist Republic must create a commission for the evaluation of the damage caused to the refugees and allocate additional material and technological and financial assistance to compensate for this damage.

7. The ultimate task of the commissions and the militia force that are being created must be restoration of peace and order in the region.

8. A permanent group must be created for monitoring the fulfillment of this protocol and for tackling current problems that may arise.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and Z. Gamsakhurdia, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia

* * *

[The following commentary by the Georgian Supreme Soviet Press Center appears boxed below the above article]

It is of significance that the protocol on the meeting between Yeltsin and Gamsakhurdia mentions the former South Ossetian Autonomous Region—that is to say, that the RSFSR recognizes the legitimate nature of the abolition of the [administrative status of the] said region. Besides, the need has been recognized to withdraw from the said territory the Soviet Army units that are hampering a peaceful settlement by providing Ossetian extremists with rockets. The creation of a mixed commission consisting of workers from the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the RSFSR Ministry of Internal affairs was necessary in view of the fact that

bandits, who entered the town from the RSFSR, in particular, from North Ossetia, as well as bandits of Ossetian nationality from other towns of the RSFSR, are presently operating in Tskhinvali.

[Signed] The Press Center of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia.

Mutalibov Urges Nagorno-Karabakh Reconciliation

LD0904110391 Moscow TASS in English 1029 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov visited Stepanakert, the administrative centre of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, where he met senior executives of law enforcement bodies and military commandants of the region, which is under the state of emergency. The meeting focused on ensuring the security of settlements and movement along the roads of the autonomous region.

The current socio-political situation in the region appears to be a transition period, despite its contradictory nature. The appeal by President Mikhail Gorbachev to the people in Azerbaijan and the population of Nagorno-Karabakh became a watershed in the Karabakh conflict. The appeal, which was received positively by Azerbaijanians, bolstered Armenians' mistrust in the resolution of the Karabakh problem at the union level.

As a result, the Armenian population took a new stance. People in Nagorno-Karabakh began to talk more loudly about the need for negotiations between the sides. Several leaders at the regional and city level asked the military for mediation in their talks with representatives of the Azerbaijan community in the region. They also asked the military to organise the meeting itself.

Mutalibov also spoke about reconciliation at the meeting. Participants again raised the subject of a bilateral moratorium on using force against each other. The question of a guarantee remains unresolved, as does the identity of who will sign the moratorium from the Armenian side.

Azerbaijan Halts Train Movement Into Armenia

NC0904122491 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1000 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Excerpt] For the last two days no trains have entered from Azerbaijan. The locomotive whistle has not been heard on the Ararat section of the railroad. It is another railroad blockade. Another attempt is being made to pressure the Government of Armenia into (?testing) the patience of the Armenian people once more. This time the reasons for the blockade also are not (?given) [words indistinct]. (?There is no doubt) that the blockade is the continuation of the frequent bandit attacks and [word indistinct] on the Republic, one of those provocative actions that forced the Government of Armenia to issue yet another appeal to Azerbaijan and the union government. [passage omitted]

Armenia Appeals to Center on Border Tension

NC0504141591 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0600 GMT 5 Apr 91

[From the review of HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN]

[Text] On its front page, the paper published a letter sent by the Armenian Republic's Internal Affairs Ministry and Committee for State Security to the USSR Committee for State Security and USSR Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs.

The letter specifically notes: Lately, the situation has sharply worsened in the republic's regions bordering Azerbaijan and in Nagorno-Karabakh. There is no end to the shootings on settlements in Armenia from the Azerbaijani side and to the attacks on the guard posts of the subunits of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry and of the Soviet Army. The barbarities committed against the peaceful population are continuing. These barbarities are accompanied by murders, pillage and destruction of agricultural facilities. Since the beginning of this year alone 59 such incidents have been recorded. There has been an increase in the intensity and audacity of these attacks.

Incoming information confirms that Azerbaijani armed guerrillas, often wearing militia uniforms, are massing in Azerbaijan's and Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's regions bordering Armenia. Their mobile detachments are conducting maneuvers along Armenia's borders and are launching bandit attacks.

Armenia's Committee for State Security and Internal Affairs Ministry strongly protest this and demand that the USSR Committee for State Security and USSR Ministries of Internal Affairs and Defense take effective measures to prevent the lawless acts of the Azerbaijani armed formations operating along the borders of Armenia, and to pull the Special Purpose Detachments of the Azerbaijan Internal Affairs Ministry out of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian Government on 'Provocative Acts'

NC0904102091 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1950 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Declaration by the Government of the Armenian Republic; place and date not given]

[Text] Of late a number of provocative acts have been committed with the connivance and, in a number of cases, with the direct encouragement of the union authorities. The aim behind such acts is to drag Armenia and Azerbaijan into a large-scale armed conflict.

(?Scorning) the Armenian Government's peace initiative and the measures it has taken to stabilize the situation along the regions bordering Azerbaijan and in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijani side is using the OMON [special purpose militia detachment] formations, which

are equipped with armored cars, cannons, and machine guns, to organize systematic attacks on the Armenian villages in Nagorno-Karabakh and on Armenia's border regions.

The unrelenting attacks resumed toward the end of March and at the beginning of April on the completely isolated Armenian villages in Shushinskiy rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh, in Shaumyanovskiy rayon, and in Getashen subrayon.

Murders are being committed virtually daily. There are also cases of barbaric [word indistinct], hostage-taking, and arson.

The population is deprived of the opportunity to undertake agricultural work. The already poor stocks of foodstuffs are being depleted. The Armenian population is presented with ultimatums to abandon their places of residence; that is, there exists a real danger of forced deportation.

Despite the numerous protests of the state authorities of the Armenian Republic, the union leadership has so far not taken any measure to halt the lawless actions of the Azerbaijani side. Rather, it continues to provide arms to the Azerbaijani OMON formations, and through the mass media misleads the public and presents the self-determination movement of the people of Nagorno-Karabkh as an interethnic or territorial conflict.

Numerous cases have been registered about the participation of Soviet Army units servicemen in the attacks carried out against Armenia's border regions. These are units deployed in Azerbaijan's 5-km state of emergency zone and which are mostly composed of Azerbaijanis.

The leadership of the Soviet Union helps foment conflict between republics. With this, it seeks to involve the Soviet Army and the servicemen of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry in these conflicts. By destabilizing the situation, it intends to counter the independent political course of the Armenian Republic while at the same time bolstering Azerbaijan's leadership, which, to retain power, relies on the Army stationed in the republic and systematically foments armed conflict between the Armenian and Azerbaijani population.

Apparently no account is being taken of the fact that the continued exacerbation of the tension is fraught with grave consequences not only for the Armenian and Azerbaijani people but also for the present union and Azerbaijani leadership, first of all.

The resumption of the minutely organized attempts for the deportation of the Armenian population from Shushinskiy rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and from Getashen subrayon immediately generates this grave and critical situation.

The responsibility for the emerging situation in the region and for the failure of the constructive dialogue between the interested sides in the first place falls on the central authorities, in particular on the USSR Internal Affairs and Defense Ministries, which are under the obligation to immediately halt the spread of the armed conflict and the supply of arms to the members of Azerbaijani OMON, to bar the operations of these detachments in the Armenian settlements, and to put an end to the practice of enlisting Azerbaijanis into the Army units deployed on the borders of Armenia.

The Government of the Armenian Republic declares that it is fully resolved to take all the necessary measures for the defense of the life and property of the Armenian population subjected to oppression. At the same time, in emphasizing its allegiance to the defense of the right to self-determination of the people of Nagorno- Karabakh, the Government of the Armenian Republic is of the opinion that the only way out of the crisis rests on the immediate restoration of the lawful bodies of power in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the search, in cooperation with these organs, of political paths for the settlement of the conflict.

Armenian Cabinet Views Referendum, Other Issues

NC0404141691 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Apr (ARMENPRES)—Prime Minister Vazgen Manukyan chaired meeting at the Armenian Republic's Council of Ministers today.

During the meeting, matters connected with the development of the ties with the diaspora Armenians, the preparatory work for businessmen's conference to be held in Armenia on 25 May, the consolidation of the structures engaged in forging foreign economic relations, and the establishment of relations with the neighboring countries, including Iran and Turkey, were discussed.

The necessary measures that must be taken in the foreign relations arena before the 21 September referendum were also discussed. It is expected that Armenia will soon have permanent representations in the U.S. and France, and sign agreements with the State of Hessen [in Germany] and California.

Central Asia

Turkmen Approve Draft Union Treaty

PM0904114391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 91 Union Edition p 3

["Direct Line" report by Vladimir Kuleshov: "Draft Union Treaty Approved"]

[Text] Ashkhabad—One of the first union republics to approve the draft treaty on the Union of Sovereign Republics, the Turkmen SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet has instructed the republic's president, presidium, and government to take all steps in their power to most speedily conclude the new Union Treaty.

A plenipotentiary Turkmen SSR delegation headed by the republic's president, S. Niyazov, and S. Muradov, chairman of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet, has been formed to further coordinate and sign the text of the treaty and protocols and appendices thereto.

The republic's supreme organ pronounced its decision in a cognizant manner, with consideration for the situation that has taken shape in the region. The situation is as follows, the resolution says: "Responding in the affirmative to the question raised in the 17 March referendum, the overwhelming majority of the Turkmen SSR's population advocated preserving our country's integrity and links between the peoples and transforming our state into a voluntary Union of equal sovereign states..."

It was stressed that the formulated draft treaty reflects the changes that have taken place in the life of the country, takes account of the experience and lessons of the past, and proceeds on the basis of the republic's adopted declaration. The resolution says that the draft also takes into consideration recognition of the sovereignty of states within the Union, the nations' and peoples' inalienable right to self-determination, and their free democratic development.

Commenting on the resolution, Sakhat Muradov, chairman of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet, said:

"We must move onto the next stage of the work on the text of the draft Union Treaty. I know that the congress of Russian deputies is also discussing these questions now. Let us all move onto the crux of the matter, voice our comments on the draft, and assemble delegations to work on and prepare the text for final signing. Let other republics' legislative organs also make their own comments and suggestions without delay."